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contents

October 2007 • Vol. 163, No. 4

14 The Last Best Hope

In the shadow of the Virginia Tech shootings, America should remember that for every dark moment in our history, there are many more rays of light. *By William J. Bennett*

18 'Magic Medicine'

VA's National Veterans Creative Arts Festival helps patients use their muses to help them heal. *By Steve Brooks*

26 Southern Discomfort

Amnesty is no answer to America's unresolved crisis on the border with Mexico. *By James Jay Carafano*

34 Terror's Free Ride in Cyberspace

In the online battle for information dominance, the enemy is enjoying a troubling advantage. *By Ken Olsen*

40 The Transatlanticist

Unlike his predecessor, French President Nicolas Sarkozy is, without apology, a friend of America. *By Alan W. Dowd*

46 War on Film

The inaugural GI Film Festival in Washington celebrates the big-screen legacy and heroism of those who've served. *By John Raughter*

5 Vet Voice

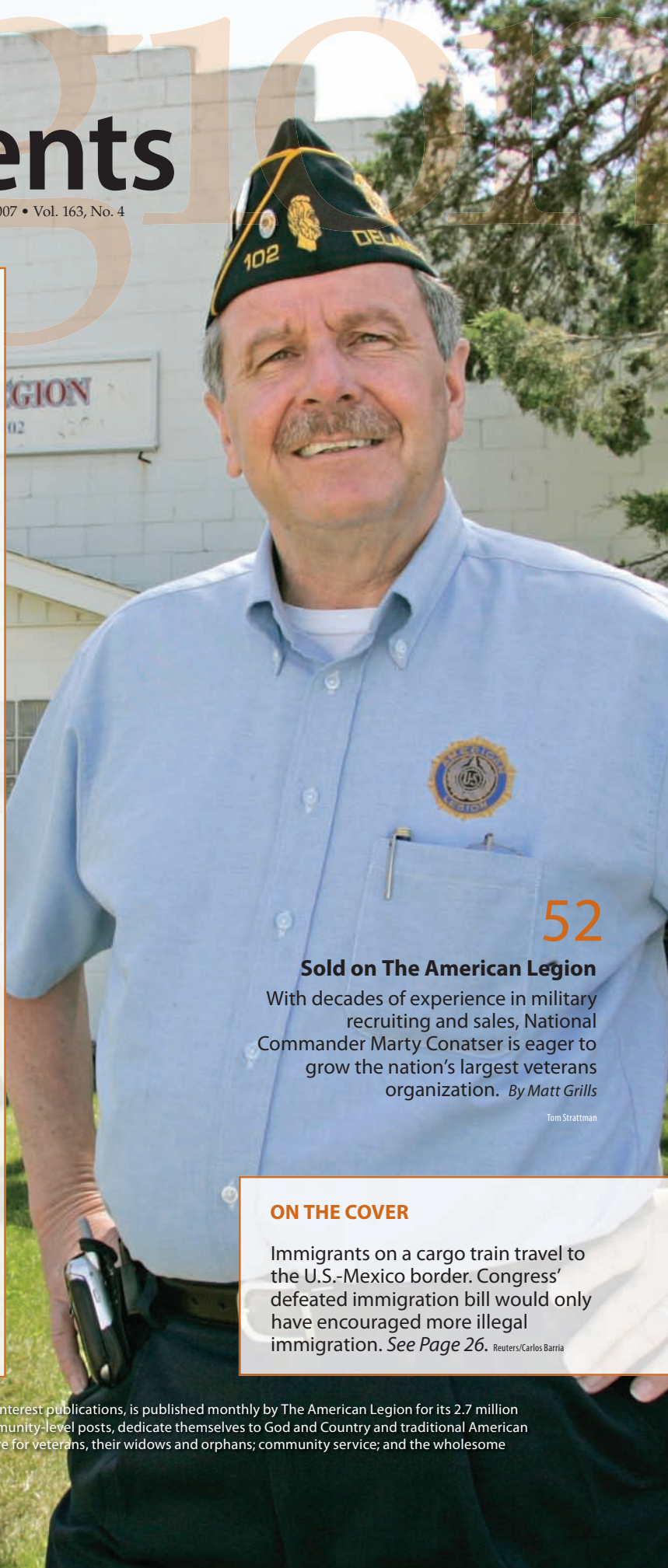
12 Big Issues

58 Rapid Fire

76 Comrades

80 Parting Shots

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.



52

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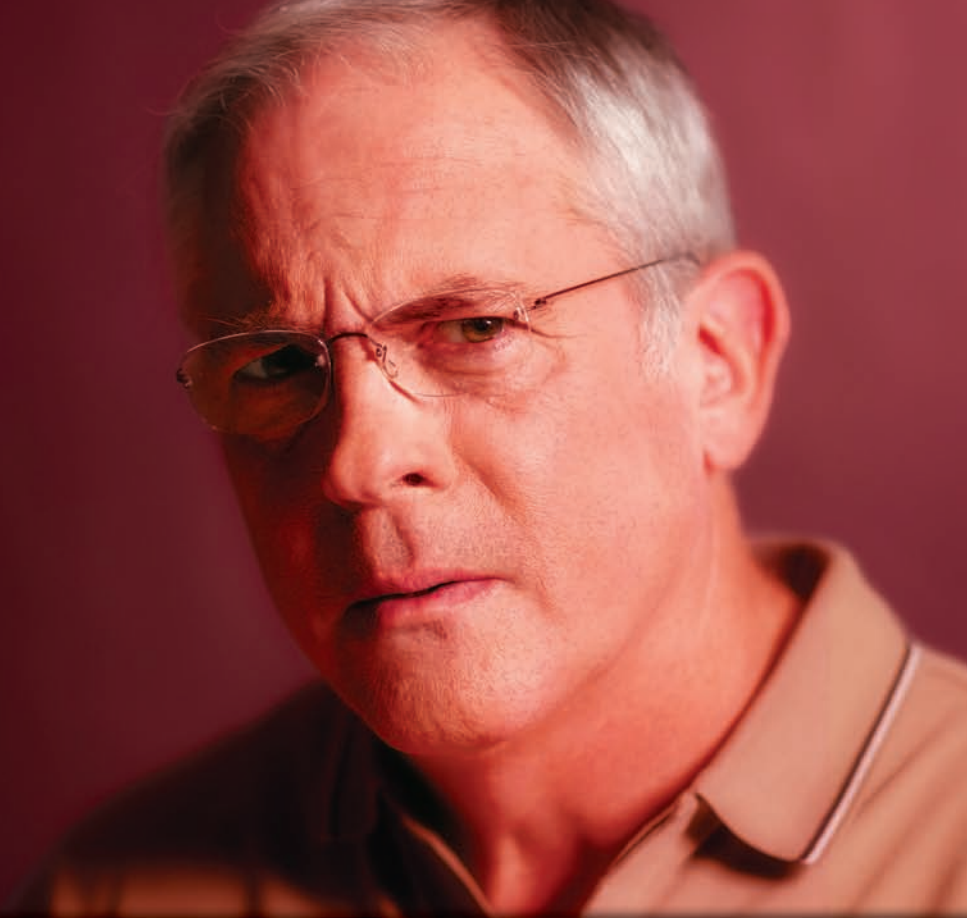
With decades of experience in military recruiting and sales, National Commander Marty Conatser is eager to grow the nation's largest veterans organization. *By Matt Grills*

Tom Strattman

ON THE COVER

Immigrants on a cargo train travel to the U.S.-Mexico border. Congress' defeated immigration bill would only have encouraged more illegal immigration. *See Page 26.* Reuters/Carlos Barria

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'Why We Can't Fight Nice'

Ralph Peters' article (August) is the most truthful assessment of the Iraq war and the growing influence of the world's leftist thinkers that I have ever seen in print. War is not pretty, and we must be willing to go medieval on those who will stop at nothing to destroy Western civilization. Those who believe we can sit down and discuss our differences with radical Islamists are naïve. I disagree with a number of President Bush's policies, but nothing compares to his trying to fight a sterile war in an effort to appease the left.

North Vietnamese Gen. Vo Nguyen Giap credits the American people for giving the North Vietnamese the will to hold on. He said they knew they could never defeat the Americans on the battlefield, but just needed to hang on until the disenchantment in America became so great that its people would force a withdrawal of U.S. troops. The American left refuses to accept this. I would think the North Vietnamese would know what gave them the strength to hold on.

We have to allow our military to fight like warriors, and the American people need to show that they still have the resolve to stand up to evil. No one can defeat us except ourselves.

— James Gregoire, Fairfield, Vt.



Putting aside all of the noise, rhetoric and squabbling over Iraq, Ralph Peters cuts to the chase. Is this war? Do people die in war? If so, then why do we abuse ourselves over “collateral damage” and every other ugly situation?

Does anyone think we should play nice? Does anyone believe talking to deluded maniacs would help? Why do we not use the media to repetitively shout the atrocities the enemy commits, in all their gory detail? Are we so pure that we cannot use an enemy's tactics against them?

Set the rules of engagement to kill the enemy, through any barrier, through any shield, eliminating any of their “politically correct” defenses, with maximum force necessary.

When the 1960s peacenik baby boomers complain, remind them that they are diluting

America's will to conduct war with the military force necessary for a successful conclusion. They and the political hacks they support might try directing their criticism at our repulsive enemy rather than bray their double standard.

Peters' question of torture is also right on the mark. Any concern for the welfare of deluded, religious and fanatical killers held against that of any of our loved ones is absolutely unsupportable.

Recent history in Kuwait has shown us that these cowards only submit to overwhelming force. Faced with it, they dissolve to sniveling capitulation. Do what needs to be done.

— G.J. Redmond, Marble Hill, Ga.

When I was in the Army during the Vietnam War, I would have refused to follow an order from a lieutenant colonel

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to torture prisoners. But regarding torture of prisoners of war, Ralph Peters argues, "It is madness to declare that there can never be exceptions." The test as to whether torture is legal is simple: no technique should be used that, if used by an enemy on an American, would be regarded as a violation of U.S. or international law.

What if an enemy officer were to decide that the torture of a U.S. soldier is needed to protect his fellow soldiers? Would Peters regard that as legal or morally acceptable?

Peters also argues that losing is the supreme immorality. If the United States adopted tactics of torturing prisoners, that would be losing. Success is getting rid of Saddam Hussein and his government's torture of prisoners. Would Peters describe Saddam's regime as successful?

Success is not a destination, but the quality of your journey.
— Jim Wangerin, *Deer Lodge, Mont.*

I read the article by retired Army Lt. Col. Ralph Peters. I could not agree more. When a nation, through its leaders, decides to take a belligerent attitude toward its neighbors or toward the rest of the world, then that nation should be permitted to experience the full wrath of those it has wronged.

It is up to the citizens of a nation to do what it takes to hold their leaders accountable so that such retribution does not occur. When such citizens become complicit, through sins of omission and commission, in the rogue actions of its nation, then they should expect to experience the consequences along with the leadership, elected or otherwise.

War is not a game, subject to "rules of engagement." It is a kill-or-be-killed controlled chaos

and destruction. When diplomacy has failed and the generals and admirals are told to take action, then the time for diplomats and politicians has passed. Their voices should be limited to unified and unwavering support of the military until those generals and admirals report that the goals have been achieved. The goal of the civilian leadership during the action should be to provide all the manpower, money and material needed by the military to achieve those goals in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

— Larry Dean Holman, *Philadelphia*

'Me, The Machine and the Wind'

I enjoyed the interview with Medal of Honor recipient Gary Wetzel (August), who didn't let a missing arm stop him from enjoying motorcycling. As a World War II soldier and biker, I share his passion to travel America on two wheels. There's a connection between military service and motorcycling. In the service, individuals learn discipline, and to respect themselves, their comrades and officers, their branch of service and America. Trained by the best, recruits do the best job with the best equipment. They focus when called to protect the United States and the Constitution. God bless them, one and all.

Disciplined bikers, individually or with their comrades, experience the thrills of highways and byways: city streets, urban and country roads, and straight-away flats. Like military members on a mission, bikers focus on where they want to go and what they're going to do.

Military training prepared me for decades of riding, enjoying America from the seat of my motorcycle. Thanks for your

article as I begin driving into the sunset, toward the end of my road.

— Joseph E. Hicswa, *Passaic, N.J.*

After reading this interview, I believe there is no one out there any better to lead our Legacy Run and represent us than this true American hero. God bless you, Gary.

— Larry Bahr, *North Dakota 10th District director, American Legion Riders*

I am a World War II Navy veteran who served in England before D-Day and later in the South Pacific during the liberation of the Philippines. I attended the dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington with my wife, my daughter, one son, a nephew and his brother. They would say the same thing I am about to say about Rolling Thunder members.

We had contact with many Rolling Thunder riders at the hotel where we were staying. They were polite and asked if there was anything they could do for us. Quite a few approached me and thanked me for serving. One helped my daughter take a picture of me at the memorial. It was so crowded that day, and the lines were long. The rider stepped in front of the line of people and held them up until my daughter was able to snap the photo.

— Vincent W. Cilurso, *Aldan, Pa.*

'Flares, Fog & Faith'

It makes me proud to be an American when reading about men like Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady (August), who risked their lives daily to protect our country in time of war – men who, like Brady, have a firm belief in God. Our country was founded on those beliefs.

In November 1987, I was invited to the Medal of Honor

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Convention in Irvine, Calif., which Brady also attended. When he needed to return to Washington on Sunday morning, I had the privilege of driving him to the Los Angeles airport, which I will always remember. This article reminded me of that day I was able to spend some time with a man I admire.

—Tex Powell, Fullerton, Calif.

Editor's note – Retired Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady currently is working on a book, *“Dead Men Flying,”* about the origins and accomplishments of Dust Off missions in Vietnam. *“Flares, Fog & Faith”* will be included in the book.

‘The Veteran Rookie’

As a child I enjoyed Little League Baseball. I played with the Mid-Town League in Edison, N.J., and wore No. 7 on my Indians uniform – the No. 7 for my hero, Mickey Mantle. I followed the Yankees through my Marine Corps enlistment. I served two tours in Vietnam. When Major League Baseball went on strike in the 1990s, I quit. No more baseball.

Yesterday my *American Legion Magazine* arrived. I read every article in it, and got to “The Veteran Rookie” (Rapid Fire). I read it once, then twice. My mind went to my youth. That’s what I wanted to do. The look in Cooper’s eyes and the determination on his face made me a believer again. Thanks, Cooper, for bringing me back.

—Robert Onifer, Lawrenceville, Pa.

Editor's note – Cooper Brannan pitched last summer for the

To honor our military dads

The American Legion Magazine plans to honor military and veteran fatherhood with a special tribute in June 2008. Readers are urged to share, in 250 words or less, personal anecdotes of extraordinary fatherhood by those who have served, or are still serving, in the U.S. Armed Forces. Letters can describe what it means to be a military dad or what it’s like to have been raised by one.

Submissions cannot be returned, so do not send originals. Please include contact information.

Send your submission to:

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PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
c/o Father’s Day tribute
or e-mail
magazine@legion.org

Padres in the rookie-level Arizona League. The right-hander from Houston was 1-3 with an 8.41 ERA in 15 relief appearances as of mid-August.

Embryonic stem-cell research

In Big Issues (August), Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., argues that using embryonic stem cells is a loss of a “potential” human being. So is war. As a college biology professor for 30 years, I dealt with this issue repeatedly in introductory biology classes. I asked my students if at their age, an average of 20, they had reached their potential, and they said they had not. I even point out that I, 40 years their senior, did not know if I had reached my

potential. I then asked when a human being does, in fact, reach his potential. The answer is unknown.

Information indicates that more than half of the fertilized embryos never implant and at least a third of those that do implant do not survive to full term. Thus, nature eliminates approximately two-thirds of all fertilized eggs (embryos). That’s a lot of potential. Carrying this further, the average human female will ovulate approximately 500 eggs in a lifetime. Every egg that goes unfertilized is a potential loss. As you can see, when this issue is carried out fully, it becomes impossible to achieve 100 percent of the potentials.

It is time for the moralists to learn some basic biology and accept reality.

—R.D. Decker, Richard, Va.

‘A Soldier’s Husband’

In the August issue, Clarence Barnes of Longview, Texas, writes, “Why does the military take women into the service who are mothers?” (Vet Voice). Because some want to serve their country, the same as men. Others want to get some form of education. Others may want to get married and have children. They have a right to choose, just like you and I do. We fought for that right in previous conflicts.

I agree that 17- to 28-year-olds should be more concerned about learning what life is about before they take the step of marriage. However, they still have a right to choose.

—James B. Beyersdorf, Pittsfield, Vt.

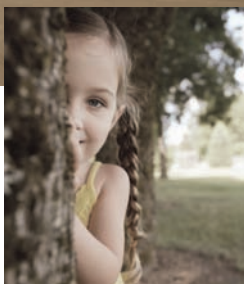
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An Internet neutrality policy



SUPPORT

**Rep. Edward J. Markey,
D-Mass.**

■ Markey is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.

During the past decades, the Internet has become an unparalleled vehicle for innovation, commerce, entrepreneurial activity, education and civic conversation. The open architecture of the Internet fostered and encouraged its growth, allowing it to become the resource that it is today.

Unfortunately, broadband network owners would like to see this structure changed.

U.S. leadership in development of high technology is directly related to historic policies that opened telecommunications networks to all lawful uses and all users. Because it is relatively cheap and easy to gain access to the Internet, innovation has flourished, creating thousands of new jobs and furthering education.

Moves by broadband network owners to impose virtual “tolls” or bottlenecks on this information super-highway endanger economic growth, innovation, job creation and the First Amendment freedom of expression on such networks. Broadband network owners should not be able to determine who can and who cannot offer services over broadband networks or over the Internet.

A network-neutrality policy to safeguard Internet freedom based upon the principle of nondiscrimination is essential to ensure that broadband telecommunications networks remain open to independent service and content providers, and to give certainty to entrepreneurs, innovators, investors and others who rely upon the Internet for commercial reasons.

Public policy should ensure that the current successful Internet model continues to drive innovation and economic growth. Too much is at stake to abandon the open World Wide Web architecture and entrust it to the “worldwide whims” of phone and cable industries.



OPPOSE

**Sen. Ted Stevens,
R-Alaska**

■ Stevens is vice chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

As the Internet continues its rise as a powerful economic engine for our nation, Americans stand at a digital divide. Threatening our progress, “net neutrality” is unneeded Internet regulation that would hamper future innovations and invest-

ment. Our nation is falling behind Europe and Asia in high-speed broadband applications. New government intervention, like “net neutrality,” will delay future innovations in telemedicine,

entertainment and communications.

Without government regulation, the Internet evolved from processing simple e-mail applications and text Web pages to a robust and comprehensive communication and entertainment medium. Who knew that YouTube and Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) could emerge so quickly? More importantly, no one knows what future high-speed Internet applications are possible. Congress should not prevent tomorrow’s innovations by regulating today’s Internet.

Economists and Internet pioneers like Dave Farber and Robert Kahn have sounded the alarm. Congress should not regulate the Internet to fix a problem that does not exist. *U.S. News and World Report* cites a University of California-Berkeley study stating that stifling competition, investment and innovation through “net neutrality” will keep broadband prices high and quality low, hurting the general public it was intended to protect. Net regulation would place the cost of expensive upgrades to permit new commercial Internet applications on the backs of all consumers, forcing many to pay for capabilities they do not want or need. This increase in consumer costs for entertainment like movie downloads or video games will expand the digital divide. Broadband access is critical to future jobs and to the economy.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Internet providers say “net neutrality” means more regulation and less innovation. Advocates say it preserves free and open access to information sources.

CONTACT YOUR LEADERS

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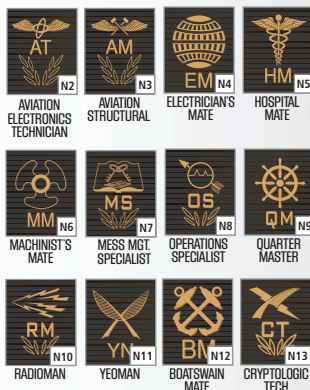


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Volunteers representing the 32 victims shot to death on the Virginia Tech campus last April hold candles during a memorial service in Columbia, Md. AP

The Last Best Hope

Even in the dark shadow of last April's Virginia Tech shootings, the essence of America shines for the rest of the world.

BY WILLIAM J. BENNETT

In 1921, the English writer G.K. Chesterton traveled to the United States and wrote about what he found here. He joined an esteemed club of other foreigners who have come to understand America better, in many ways, than we understand ourselves. Of America, Chesterton wrote, "(S)uns and moons and meteors pass and fill our skies with a fleeting and almost theatrical conflagration; and wherever the old shadow stoops upon the earth, the stars return." We remind ourselves of shadows and suns in thinking about the awful tragedy in Blacksburg, Va., last April.

A most beautiful day in Virginia became a dark nightmare when a crazed gunman shot and killed students and professors at his university. That sort of thing is not supposed to happen in America. It certainly was not supposed to happen again, after Columbine in Colorado, or after Nickel Mines in Pennsylvania. This kind of event, this kind of slaughter, is a modern occurrence in America. One thinks of the madman climbing the University of Texas clock tower and cutting down fellow students in 1966. One thinks of the shooting at the Luby's cafeteria in Killeen, Texas, in 1991. Or Columbine. Or Nickel Mines. But the memory stops short there.

Schools were once considered safe places in America. They were always considered important, and still are. But as we reflect on that dark April day in Virginia, our task as Americans becomes new today, because there's always a good story, no matter how horrible the tragedy. And the good story becomes as important, if not more important, than the tragic one.

I will not tarnish this page with the name of the Blacksburg assassin; we have heard it enough and would that we had never heard it at all. But the

name we cannot forget – the name we must never forget – is interestingly also not the kind of name one usually associates with American tradition: Liviu Librescu. And yet one Liviu Librescu saved Americans, and helped save a part of America, that April day.

A 76-year-old Holocaust survivor from Romania, Librescu had lived under Nazis and communists but won his freedom in 1978 and emigrated to Israel. A professor of aeronautical engineering, he took a sabbatical at Virginia Tech in 1985 and adopted America as his new country. When the assassin tried to storm Librescu's classroom last April, Librescu blocked the door with his body, holding off the gunman so his students could jump out the window to safety.

Liviu Librescu did not ultimately prevail over the younger, stronger gunman and was the first person shot dead when the killer broke through the barricade. But several students were not shot, and live today, because Librescu bought them time and instructed them to escape. He survived Hitler and died in Blacksburg, but he died a hero, saving Americans, repaying the gift of the combined efforts of the Allies who saved his life in World War II. There are always heroes in America.

As early as 1974, at another time when Americans were not feeling too good about their country or their institutions, Ronald Reagan was thinking about our history and our timeless mission. He concluded a major speech, while sharing a stage with war heroes, by saying: "We are not a sick society. A sick society could not produce the men that set foot on the moon, or who are now circling the earth above us in the Skylab. A sick society bereft of morality and courage did not produce the men who went through those years of torture and

captivity in Vietnam. Where did we find such men? They are typical of this land, as the founding fathers were typical. We found them in our streets, in the offices, the shops and the working places of our country and on the farms.

"We cannot escape our destiny, nor should we try to do so. The leadership of the free world was thrust upon us two centuries ago in that little hall of Philadelphia. In the days following World War II, when the economic strength and power of America was all that stood between the world and a return to the dark ages, Pope Pius XII said, 'The American people have a great genius for splendid and unselfish actions. Into the hands of America God has placed the destinies of an afflicted mankind.'

"We are indeed, and we are today, the last best hope of man on earth."

Ronald Reagan was right, as was Abraham Lincoln. Whether we are immigrants or natural-born citizens, whether we are Democrats, Republicans or independents, whether we are governors or the governed, we are the last best hope of earth. If we take on the complete study of our country again – the good, the bad and the sometimes ugly – we will realize that for every anti-hero, there are hundreds of heroes; for every dark moment, there are thousands of rays of light to be seen through the passing clouds.

A little over a decade later, Reagan explained in his second inaugural address how, in America, we can still hear the echoes of our past. "A general falls to his knees in the hard snow of Valley Forge," he said. "A lonely president paces the darkened halls and ponders his struggle to preserve the Union, the men of the Alamo call out encouragement to each other, a settler pushes west and sings a song, and the song echoes out forever and fills the unknowing air." Reagan reminded us that the song of our history "is the American sound. It is hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent and fair. That's our heritage; that is our song. We sing it still."

Indeed, we do sing it still. But we are at risk of forgetting too much of the anthem, too much of our history, and of becoming aliens to ourselves by not remembering our great events, our great heroes, our great liberations and, frankly, some of our great failures, too. And if we cannot remember our past, if we do become aliens to and in our own country, we will no longer know what it is that we fight to preserve, or why it is that we exist at all.

The trend lines are not inclining. Historian David McCullough put it best after recognizing

that national test after national test of our students reveal U.S. history to be their single worst subject. "Amnesia of society is just as detrimental as amnesia for the individual," McCullough said.

"We are running a terrible risk. Our very freedom depends on education, and we are failing our children in not providing that education." Our textbooks are too dry, he pointed out, concluding, "(Y)ou read these texts and ask yourself, 'Are they assigned as punishment?'"

It need not be this way. Once upon a time, not too long ago, we understood what our history was, we recognized it as glory and romance – the very words etched into the top of our National Archives, describing what the building underneath contains and protects. Yes, we must remember and know how to remember that the story of America is a great story. It is the best political story ever told and the second greatest story ever told.

We have prevented epidemics, improved the conditions of mankind and saved other countries. We have fought wars for ourselves as well as others. We have liberated the immiserated. We have become not only a shining city on a hill, but a city of refuge for foreigners as well.

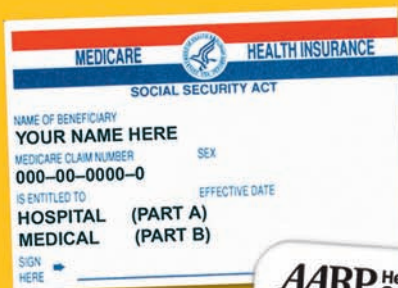
America is not just the story of great leaders; it is the story of a great people who wisely choose how to save themselves and others, how to correct wrongs, and how to preserve what is still the greatest nation in the history of the world. We have our troubles, and we have our shadows. But the eclipses do not last long, nor should they become our main visuals, the things we remember best or most.

What should we remember most? We should remember that we Americans have a knack for choosing rightly, just when we need to choose rightly. This has been true of our Washingtons, our Lincolns, our Roosevelts, our Trumans, our Reagans, and so many others – from soldiers, to generals, to heroes in every walk of life, in every city in America.

If we dedicate ourselves to studying these things, if we dedicate ourselves to studying our history rightly, if we take the time to look at the entirety of our firmament, we will see what our founders saw we could be, what foreigners who came here saw all along, and what we ourselves can, even today, see once again. 🌿

William J. Bennett is the author of the recently published book "America: The Last Best Hope, Volume II – From a World at War to the Triumph of Freedom."

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Losing his sight didn't mean the end for Air Force veteran Robert Jackson, 61, who has participated in seven National Veterans Creative Arts Festivals. Steve Brooks

'Magic Medicine'

Former servicemembers gather at VA's National Veterans Creative Arts Festival each year to paint, sing, dance and heal.

BY STEVE BROOKS

At 57, Michael Cruse looks somewhat like a mountain man. Seated in a wheelchair thanks to a broken ankle he suffered the previous summer, his broad frame hints that if he were to stand up, he'd be well over 6 feet tall. The top of his grayish mane is cropped tight, but his beard, maybe a week short of bushy, extends from ear to ear and down his neck. Exchange his tie-dyed shirt and blue jeans for buffalo skins and longer hair, and he would be Grizzly Adams. Eight years ago, he was living such a life.

Holed up in the mountains of Alma, Ark., Cruse rarely ventured out of his home. Appointments at the Fayetteville VA Medical Center were the only times he braved the outside world. He entered the Navy in 1965 and came out two years later with post-traumatic stress disorder, a seizure disorder, nerve deterioration related to Agent Orange exposure, and major leg, back and neck impairments that put him on the operating table. Day-to-day activities like talking to strangers became a battle for Cruse, who broke out in cold sweats, trembled and heard ringing in his ears at times of external stress. Avoiding the outside world seemed easier.

In 1998, at the urging of Leta, his wife of 31 years, Cruse began participating in VA's crafts program, painting porcelain china. Two years later, Leta entered a piece of her husband's work in a contest at the Fayetteville VA Medical Center. Michael didn't find out until VA called to notify him that he'd won the competition and invited him to the 2000 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in Washington.

Six years later, in Rapid City, S.D., Cruse made his seventh appearance at the event. The biggest difference between his first festival and the 2006 gathering is that during the 2000 festival he hid in his room the first three days to avoid contact with strangers. But as the years passed, he began attending the festival's mandatory events. He began to

warm to the idea of being around strangers – and to the fact that as a veteran he is not alone in his battle with PTSD.

"At first, it was terrible to come to these and be around other people, but I saw other veterans who were just like me," he says. "It's probably a terrible thing to say, but it makes me feel good that I'm not the only one like this."

Success at the festival has come often for Cruse in the past few years. His 2005 winning entry appeared on the festival's 2006 flyer. He won a gold medal in glazed ceramics for his vase "Hummingbird Hollow," a piece whose detail and color would stand up to review in any professional gallery.

Even so, for Cruse the festival is not about winning titles or glory. "This is magic medicine right here," he says, motioning to the other artists in the room. "I've been very fortunate here. I've won six times, but it's not about winning. It's about meeting these people. It's about sharing with them. I used to not be able to be around anybody. Now these people are my friends."

Cruse is a member of American Legion Post 31 in Fort Smith, Ark., and Leta belongs to the American Legion Auxiliary. The Auxiliary teams up with VA and the group Help Hospitalized Veterans to put on the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. This year's event opens later this month in St. Louis.

"Now we look for people we've met at previous festivals," Leta says. "You become a family. This has changed (Michael). It's helped him heal."

Therapeutic Arts. The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival has been going on since 1989 and has five artistic divisions: music, drama, dance, creative writing and visual arts. Participants are VA patients who take part in the creative arts through the system's recreation therapy programs. More than 2,800 veterans at 104 VA medical facilities entered the competition last year, and

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After having a stroke, I could no longer exercise the way I used to. As a result, I developed edema. A friend of mine introduced me to the Exerciser 2000 Elite™. I loved it and I purchased one for myself. After using the machine daily for a few weeks, my symptoms of edema were completely gone. I now use the machine twice a day for 16 minutes each time on speed 3. What a wonderful way to exercise. —Robert M.

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I have had constipation problems for over 25 years. Since I have been using the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ I have been regular every day and have begun to lose weight. This is truly a blessing and is so easy to use. —Jeannie

I am in my late 80's and have diabetes. The first thing I noticed when I started using my machine was that my feet were warm when I went to bed. They were always ice cold before. Because one of my problems is poor circulation, I use the machine three times a day for 10 minutes each; in the morning, late afternoon and just before bed. I almost forgot to mention that I have not been able to lift my arms above my head. Now I can do it. You think that's no big deal until you can't do it anymore. —Ralph K.

My husband and I have been into natural products all of our lives but nothing has ever affected us like the Exerciser 2000 Elite™. My husband is 72 and delivers flowers. He carries 5 gallon buckets of water. Since using the machine, his back hasn't hurt him at all. My hips would hurt if I stood too long and I would get weak and have to sit down. Now I can walk and sit as long as I want. I don't take pain medication anymore. In the morning, when I get out of bed I'm not stiff anymore. At 65, wow, this is great! Thank you for offering such a great machine. We are going to tell everyone we know about it. —Cheryl J.

I had suffered with sleep apnea for many years and had been taking drugs for it. I was told I would have to use a breathing apparatus. In the meantime, I was introduced to the Exerciser 2000 Elite™ and decided to purchase one. Within two weeks, I was sleeping more deeply and restfully than ever before. —David B.

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130 medal-winning veterans made their way to Rapid City for a week of camaraderie, classes, rehearsals, and a final art exhibition and stage show at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center Theater.

The annual competition recognizes the progress and recovery made possible through VA's recreation therapy programs, and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of U.S. veterans after disease, disability or life crisis.

"All of this gives rise to veterans suffering physical and mental disabilities and helps them realize they still have so much to contribute," explained VA Secretary R. James Nicholson, who attended last year's event. "It starts a new spark of interest and endeavors in their lives and is a wonderful therapeutic exercise for veterans in this country."

Still Able. A deteriorating optic nerve took 61-year-old Robert Jackson's eyesight, and for a period of time, it took some of his drive, too. A former Air Force police officer who spent 22 years in the service, Jackson's life suddenly changed.

"When I lost my sight in 1987, I kind of started feeling sorry for myself," Jackson says. A lot of the things I used to do – I used to love playing sports – I couldn't do them anymore. That's hard to deal with."

He occasionally holds onto a companion's arm – usually his wife, Rebecca – when he walks. He wears dark glasses indoors. But those are the only obvious indications of the man's lost eyesight. When he's singing and dancing onstage, as he and fellow members of The Blind Beat Dancers have done for nearly a decade, it's all forgotten.

Jackson's deep voice belts out a freestyle rap – a tribute to Rapid City, in this instance – while he and fellow Blind Beat members George Hicks and Walter Pasciak dance, in step, to the background music. Jackson has no problem hamming it up, turning his back to the audience and giving a shake or two of his posterior. The crowd eats it up.

"I just love this – we're like a family," he



Army veteran John Bigham delivers a John Coltrane version of "My Favorite Things" during the 2006 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Steve Brooks

says, motioning to other entertainers in the hallway. "I've got my immediate family, and then I've got my Creative Arts (Festival) family. You look forward to coming back every year and meeting back up with them."

A visual impairment services team at the Baltimore VA Medical Center connected Jackson with Blind Beat Dancers. Rapid City was his seventh festival.

"I try to tell other veterans that they might be disabled, but they're not unable," he says. "You can still do things. I'm proof of that."

Piano Man. John Bigham is at home on a stage, though not necessarily while singing. The 36-year-old U.S. Army veteran prefers to be sitting, his hands working their magic on the keys of a piano. But he also joins dozens of other veterans as part of a chorus, rehearsing for the festival's final show.

"I'm just not really big on the chorus part of this," says Bigham, a Rosemont, Pa., resident and patient at the Perry Point VA Medical Center in Maryland. "Everything else about this is really great, but I'm just not sure about the singing."

Piano playing, as well as military service, runs in the Bigham family blood. John's father, Eddie Bigham, is a World War II Army veteran who toured Africa as entertainer Martha Raye's keyboard player in 1942 and toured with Tommy Dorsey after the war ended. Music always was always part of John's life, and he's



We found our most important watch in a soldier's pocket



It's the summer of 1944 and a weathered U.S. sergeant is walking in Rome only days after the Allied Liberation. There is a joyous mood in the streets and this tough soldier wants to remember this day. He's only weeks away from returning home. He finds an interesting timepiece in a store just off the Via Veneto and he decides to splurge a little on this memento. He loved the way it felt in his hand, and the complex movement inside the case intrigued him. He really liked the hunter's back that opened to a secret compartment. He thought that he could squeeze a picture of his wife and new daughter in the case back. He wrote home that now he could count the hours until he returned to the States. This watch went on to survive some

harrowing flights in a B-24 bomber and somehow made it back to the U.S. Besides the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, my father cherished this watch because it was a reminder of the best part of the war for any soldier—the homecoming.

He nicknamed the watch *Ritorno* for homecoming, and the rare heirloom is now valued at \$42,000 according to *The Complete Guide to Watches*. But to our family, it is just a reminder that nothing is more beautiful than the smile of a healthy returning GI.



The hunter's back

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accuracy to only seconds a day. The movement displays the day and date on the antique satin finished face and the sweep second hand lets any watch expert know that it has a fine automatic movement, not a mass-produced quartz movement. If you enjoy the rare, the classic, and the museum quality, we have a limited number of *Ritornos* available. We hope that it will remind you to take time to remember what is truly valuable. If you are not completely satisfied, simply return it within 30 days for a full refund of the purchase price.

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Vietnam War veteran Albert Gray Eagle says attending the Creative Arts Festival is an invigorating experience. Steve Brooks

been performing seriously for 16 years. The 2006 festival was his first appearance, after a Perry Point VA music therapist suggested he enter the local competition.

During the festival's final show, Bigham delivered a smoking John Coltrane version of "My Favorite Things."

"I've gotten a chance to meet some great people, seen some great art and heard some great music," Bigham says. "I've also gotten an understanding of how much the Creative Arts Festival has to offer veterans. I think everyone here has a real understanding of what it feels like to be a veteran who's dealing with something, either physically or emotionally. It's a great place to heal."

The Sioux Valley. Darkness fills the auditorium in the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center. As eyes adjust, a mist moves across the stage. A figure in a wheelchair is silhouetted against a screen. Children appear at the figure's feet.

The music of a flute can be heard coming from the left side of the stage – an eerie, even haunting tune. Entering, stage left, is Albert Gray Eagle, decked out in a feather headdress, a dramatic opening to the stage performance of the festival. After the flute solo – played on an instrument carved by Gray Eagle himself – Paul Boruff joins in on guitar, complementing Gray Eagle's gentle tones. Boruff begins to softly sing the words of Frank Scout, another festival participant who can no longer sing.

A Korean War Marine Corps veteran and Purple Heart recipient, Scout wrote the song "Sioux Valley" as a tribute to his Lakota heritage. Boruff and Gray Eagle agreed to sing Scout's song to open the final stage show. As for Scout, a stroke has made it difficult for him to convey his emotions through words, but his eyes have no such trouble when asked what it feels like to hear a song he wrote performed by others at the festival.

"Participating in the arts makes me feel and think better," Scout says. "It is a way for me to express my feelings and leave something I've made for others. I'm thankful they were able to express my words for me."

Gray Eagle didn't hesitate to volunteer. "When I learned who (Scout) was, I felt it was a great honor to help him express himself," he says. "I knew Paul, and I knew the type of entertainer he was, and we were both very enticed to do this. And it's something I'm really glad I decided to do."

Gray Eagle suffered through spinal injuries resulting from his service in Vietnam from 1973 to 1976. He's also developed diabetes. The Creative Arts Festival, which he's attended four times, is one of the ways Gray Eagle deals with his conditions.

"Being here is like being invigorated," the veteran says. "I know I'll eventually be in a wheelchair. I am going to enjoy life as much as I can before that happens, and this is one way I do that."

"The brotherhood is what brings me back. It's good to see familiar faces every year, and it's good to get to know the new faces. And to see the talent is really awesome. We're all connected by being veterans, by being human beings and Americans." 🌿

Steve Brooks is senior editor of The American Legion Magazine.

Spirit of St. Louis

The 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is scheduled for Oct. 22-28 in St. Louis. The final performance and art exhibit will be Oct. 28 at the Touhill Performing Arts Center on the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Admission is free, and the public is invited to attend with an admission ticket.

www1.va.gov/vetevent/caf/2007/default.cfm

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SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT

Enforcement of laws on the books, a viable work-visa program and an outright rejection of amnesty are the only ways America can pull out of its illegal immigration quagmire.

BY JAMES JAY CARAFANO

In June, Washington fought and lost its own Little Big Horn. Attempting to push through comprehensive legislation to secure America's broken borders and fix dysfunctional immigration laws, Congress – like Custer – fought at the wrong place at the wrong time.

COMMENTARY

The politicians fought outnumbered, garnering withering criticisms from the right and the left. They deserved to lose.

Washington lost because the draft bill proposed in the Senate would have made the challenge of securing the U.S.-Mexican border more, not less, difficult. The legislation would have encouraged more illegal migration. It would have saddled federal, state and local governments with crippling financial burdens and cheapened the value of U.S. citizenship.

Making compromises at every turn, the legislation lost sight of the nature of the problem, and what border and immigration reforms are needed to keep the United States free, safe and prosperous.

Know Your Enemy. Fixing a problem starts with understanding the problem. More than 500,000 people illegally cross the southern border a year, and millions more live unlawfully inside the United States. These troubles, however, are mere symptoms of the two real issues.

No. 1. The United States shares about 2,000 miles of border with Mexico. That border is an economic engine that generates hundreds of billions a year in benefits for both countries. It is, however, a border out of control – and that creates a serious security problem. Transnational criminals are exploiting the chaos, and cartels are fighting over control of a corridor that ferries a multibillion-dollar-a-year business of drugs, people and weapons. There is nothing going on in Baghdad that has not been tried on the border: kidnapping, bombings, beheadings. The cartel wars and violence and lawlessness they breed are making U.S. borders a dangerous place, destroying property and putting lives at risk. Going after the gangs has to be a top priority. Dealing with illegal immigration is part of the mix. Serious criminals

**SUMMER
OF '07 ON
THE BORDER**

AUG. 2

Federation for American Immigration Reform reports foreign-born U.S. population at all-time high 37.4 million

AUG. 2

A new video game called "ICED!" rewards illegal-immigrant characters if they avoid deportation

JULY 30

Twelve migrants are found abandoned and rescued by Border Patrol in the New Mexico desert



hide among the 500,000 individuals who illegally cross the border each year. A significant drop in illegal crossings would allow law enforcement to focus resources on criminals victimizing people on both sides of the border.

No. 2. By even the most conservative estimates, the United States has an unlawful population of at least 12 million. This population serves as a magnet for further illegal migration. According to a Pew Hispanic Center study in 2003, individuals working in the United States sent almost \$30 billion to their families in Latin America and the Caribbean. As the single largest form of direct foreign investment in the region, these remittances have become the economic engine of Latin America. As long as the unprecedented economic importance of remittances remains, individuals will seek access to the U.S. labor market by legal or illegal means. That pressure has overwhelmed America's ability to secure its own border.

The challenges of an unlawful population that accounts for about 4 to 5 percent of everyone living in America – or about one in

every 25 people in the country – also reach well beyond the border. They are largely the source of undocumented workers referred to as cheap labor. In truth, the costs of low-wage, undocumented labor is foisted on state and local communities, from providing various entitlements to the law-enforcement expenses involved in incarcerating criminal aliens. As a result, while immigration overall has a net-positive effect on the U.S. economy, the fiscal costs of illegal migration often fall disproportionately on small communities. Up to 3 million people who illegally crossed the border, for example, are living in Texas. That's about 20 percent of the unlawfully present population in the United States, and the public benefits they receive – like education and emergency-room care – are a crippling burden.

There are other issues as well, like public health. Recently, the case of Andrew Speaker, the globetrotting honeymooning lawyer infected with tuberculosis, gained the attention of thousands of newspaper articles and hours of TV coverage because of his ability to slip past border officials.

JULY 26

Four Ecuadoran immigrants caught in Arizona accuse their Mexican smuggler of robbery

JULY 26

Accused alien smuggler indicted on federal charges after Colorado triple-fatal crash of van containing nine illegal immigrants

JULY 20

Federal authorities arrest 274 illegal immigrants in five days in Dallas-Fort Worth area

JULY 13

Eighty-one illegal immigrants found trapped inside sweltering truck

Sealed vault tubes of President coins go to public for \$28



■ **SHUT OFF:** Here's some of the last dozen stacks of Washington Presidential Dollars that are no longer being minted and are extremely uncommon because they're actually carved with edge lettering.

Public gets hoard of last Presidential coins free

By SHAWN OYLER
UNIVERSAL MEDIA SYNDICATE

(UMS) - Starting at precisely 7:45 a.m. today, some of the last Presidential Coins ever to be minted by the U.S. Government are being handed out free to the public.

They are getting them free with every single vault tube they claim.

The U.S. Government barely got started minting these new Washington coins and by law were required to stop production forever. There will never be any more.

So, who's to thank for this massive giveaway effort? Well, it's not the government. It's the World Reserve

Monetary Exchange.

And we'll even give you the direct Hotline to call so you can be among the first to get yours free right now.

People everywhere will be trying to get their hands on the last of these magnificent stacks of coins with the never-before-seen edge markings. But only those who get in before the 7-day deadline are being handed one of the remaining brand new never-circulated Washington Presidential Dollar Coins free with every single \$28 sealed vault tube.

Officials at the World Reserve are bracing for the explosion of calls. But, don't give up calling if you don't get through the first time. Keep trying.

"It's a miracle we were able to set

up special Hotlines in three Regional Distribution Zones in an effort to maintain order across the country. We feared the flood of calls could bring us to our knees but we are now equipped to handle everyone who is trying to get through to get our last coins," said Stephen Speakman, Director of Hotline Operations for the World Reserve Monetary Exchange.

All this is happening because the World Reserve has revealed it will release the last of its secretly located hoard of \$13 million worth of never-circulated Presidential Coins in vault sealed tubes to prevent them from ever being introduced into commerce. It's the only way to maintain their value as

never-circulated coins.

"This is what everyone wants but so few will actually have. So many will be left out in the cold or with ordinary circulated coins if they can even find them in their bank change. That's why we are so widely advertising our plans to give away some of the last never-circulated Presidential Coins free," said Speakman.

Those who do beat the order deadline will get one of the last Presidential Dollar Coins free so they can handle it, show it off and still keep the valuable vault tube sealed and perfectly intact.

The U.S. Government is required to honor each President with a single Presidential \$1 Coin, with a different President appearing every ninety days. That's why everyone is still trying to get the last of the Washington dollar coins now that minting has been shut off and since it is the first Presidential Dollar to be released.

"There will be forty sealed vault tubes in all, each containing twelve never-circulated Presidential Coins. That's 480 coins. But with all forty of the free coins everybody is getting, it becomes a spectacular collection of 520 never-circulated coins in all, loaded into two separate heavy vault boxes. Only those lucky enough to get in on this now will be among the first to be automatically taken care of with all of the new Presidential Dollars to ever be minted for the next ten years," explained Speakman.

The Presidential Dollars may be hard to find because they have not really made their way into the National Banking System. Banks will not honor requests for the free coins. And Banks will never have crystal-clear sealed vault tubes of the never-circulated coins that show off the rare edge markings. Claims for these free coins which are in never-circulated condition are only being honored by the World Reserve for the next seven days and only for those who beat the deadline for the sealed vault tubes.

"Just look at that stack of coins. When Americans get their hands on those, they are really going to do a double take," Speakman said. ■



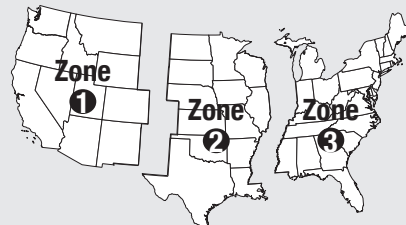
■ **JACKPOT:** These two massive vault boxes contain the sealed vault tubes for the complete collection of forty Presidential Dollars, 480 coins in all. Values fluctuate, but just think if you had saved 2 vault boxes of uncirculated Eisenhower Dollars from 1973. They would now be worth \$6,912.00. It's a real steal at just \$28 for these crystal clear sealed vault tubes that show off the rare edge markings and protect the coin's never-circulated value.



How to get free Presidential Coins with sealed vault tubes

Every reader of this magazine who beats the order deadline will still get one of the last never-circulated Washington Presidential Dollar Coins free with each sealed vault tube at just twenty-eight dollars plus shipping. Rations of these coins are uncertain because minting has been shut off and there can never be anymore. Once they're gone, they're gone. By law, once the minting shuts off, they will never be minted again. So, in an effort to maintain an orderly distribution of the World Reserve's remaining private hoard of coins, claim lines have been established in three Regional Distribution Zones.

1 Find the Regional Distribution Zone you live in on the map below



2 Call the Claim Line set up for your Distribution Zone for the next 7 days only

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If you live in Zone 2

Call: 1-800-244-1668 Lines open 8:00 AM - 9:00 PM

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What the media largely missed is that the United States already has a major communicable disease problem. And the individuals entering the United States legally through legitimate points of entry are the least part of it. Tuberculosis, including strains that are increasingly drug-resistant, is one of the fastest-spreading diseases in the world. In part, this is because of the spread of HIV/AIDS, which reduces the human immune system and leaves individuals more susceptible to TB. According to the World Health Organization, more than 8 million people a year get TB, and about 98 percent live in the developing world. Most illegal migration comes from the developing world to Europe and the United States. Many of these individuals never pass through a point of entry, which is the most likely source of a human-carried pandemic.

When the Senate considered a bill that would immediately grant legal status, including the right to pass back and forth across the U.S. border, to anyone living unlawfully in the United States – with no health check required – everyone should have been concerned.

Missing in Action. As far as solving America's border and immigration woes, logic was largely missing from the legislation proposed in the Senate that started out by granting amnesty to virtually anyone. For starters, this seriously flawed proposal would have undermined the rule of law by granting massive benefits to those who have willfully violated U.S. laws while denying benefits to those who have played by the rules, and sometimes even to U.S. citizens.

The Senate's immigration reform proposal would not improve border security and could actually worsen the problem of illegal immigration. The most dramatic impact of the legislation would be to allow millions of immigrants who are unlawfully present in the United States to remain, critically undermining the deterrent effect of U.S. immigration laws and border security. As recent experience in both the United States and Europe demonstrates, legalization measures only spur further unlawful migration.

Like the Senate legislation, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 was a bipartisan compromise strongly supported by the president. When President Reagan signed the bill, he

declared, "It will remove the incentive for illegal immigration." More than 2 million signed up for amnesty in 1986; the unlawful population in the United States today is probably five times that.

Proponents of the Senate bill and the Congressional Budget Office largely dismissed the expense of amnesty by issuing a standard 10-year outlook for quantifying the costs and benefits. Many of the most profound costs associated with the bill occur after the point when amnesty recipients get full citizenship. Then the check comes due. Robert Rector, an analyst at the Heritage Foundation, who looked at the "out-year" costs of amnesty, found that it would greatly increase long-term costs to taxpayers. Granting amnesty to illegal immigrants would, over time, increase their use of means-tested welfare, Social Security and Medicare. Fiscal costs would rise in the intermediate term and increase dramatically when amnesty recipients reach retirement. Although it is difficult to provide a reliable estimate, it seems likely that if 10 million adult illegal immigrants in the United States were granted amnesty, the net retirement cost to government – benefits minus taxes – could exceed \$2.6 trillion.

No one knows the true number of those here who would sign up for amnesty. The response to the 1986 amnesty proved far greater than expected. In addition, since the standards for amnesty qualification could be easily falsified, there a significant number of fraudulent applications might be expected. Finally, Medicare and Medicaid rates could rise far faster than current CBO projections. That means that a system growing so fast that it is already on course to bankrupt the federal budget could happen just that much faster.

Stop the Insanity. The United States has been ramping up security on the border for decades. Spending has tripled and has had almost no impact on stemming the flow of illegal crossings. Also, only about half of those living unlawfully in the United States crossed an open border. The other half entered legally and overstayed their visas. Only securing the border would be like locking the door but leaving the window open.

JULY 10

Federal agents arrest 31 illegal aliens working at a children's summer camp in New York

JULY 11

Illegal-immigrant sweep of Midwestern meatpacking companies nets 19 arrests

JULY 6

50,349 non-Mexican illegal immigrants reported captured since October

JUNE

Authorities find 100-yard U.S.-Mexico tunnel under construction near Nogales, Ariz.



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Brief Summary of Prescribing Information
INDICATIONS AND USAGE

SPIRIVA HandiHaler (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) is indicated for the long-term, once-daily, maintenance treatment of bronchospasm associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

SPIRIVA HandiHaler (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) is contraindicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to atropine or its derivatives, including ipratropium, or to any component of this product.

WARNINGS

SPIRIVA HandiHaler (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) is intended as a once-daily maintenance treatment for COPD and is not indicated for the initial treatment of acute episodes of bronchospasm, i.e., rescue therapy.

Immediate hypersensitivity reactions, including angioedema, may occur after administration of SPIRIVA. If such a reaction occurs, therapy with SPIRIVA should be stopped at once and alternative treatments should be considered.

Inhaled medicines, including SPIRIVA, may cause paradoxical bronchospasm. If this occurs, treatment with SPIRIVA should be stopped and other treatments considered.

PRECAUTIONS

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As an anticholinergic drug, SPIRIVA (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) may potentially worsen symptoms and signs associated with narrow-angle glaucoma, prostatic hyperplasia or bladder-neck obstruction and should be used with caution in patients with any of these conditions.

As a predominantly renally excreted drug, patients with moderate to severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance of ≤ 50 mL/min) treated with SPIRIVA should be monitored closely (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations, Renally-impaired Patients**).

Information for Patients

It is important for patients to understand how to correctly administer SPIRIVA capsules using the HandiHaler inhalation device (see **Patient's Instructions for Use**). SPIRIVA capsules should only be administered via the HandiHaler device and the HandiHaler device should not be used for administering other medications.

Capsules should always be stored in sealed blisters. Remove only one capsule immediately before use, or its effectiveness may be reduced. Additional capsules that are exposed to air (i.e., not intended for immediate use) should be discarded.

Eye pain or discomfort, blurred vision, visual halos or colored images in association with red eyes from conjunctival congestion and corneal edema may be signs of acute narrow-angle glaucoma. Should any of these signs and symptoms develop, consult a physician immediately. Miotic eye drops alone are not considered to be effective treatment.

Care must be taken not to allow the powder to enter into the eyes as this may cause blurring of vision and pupil dilation.

SPIRIVA HandiHaler is a once-daily maintenance bronchodilator and should not be used for immediate relief of breathing problems, i.e., as a rescue medication.

Drug Interactions

SPIRIVA has been used concomitantly with other drugs commonly used in COPD without increases in adverse drug reactions. These include sympathomimetic bronchodilators, methylxanthines, and oral and inhaled steroids. However, the co-administration of SPIRIVA with other anticholinergic-containing drugs (e.g., ipratropium) has not been studied and is therefore not recommended.

Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions

None known.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

No evidence of tumorigenicity was observed in a 104-week inhalation study in rats at tiotropium doses up to 0.059 mg/kg/day, in an 83-week inhalation study in female mice at doses up to 0.145 mg/kg/day, and in a 101-week inhalation study in male mice at doses up to 0.002 mg/kg/day. These doses correspond to 25, 35, and 0.5 times the Recommended Human Daily Dose (RHDD) on a mg/m² basis, respectively. These dose multiples may be over-estimated due to difficulties in measuring deposited doses in animal inhalation studies.

Tiotropium bromide demonstrated no evidence of mutagenicity or clastogenicity in the following assays: the bacterial gene mutation assay, the V79 Chinese hamster cell mutagenesis assay, the chromosomal aberration assays in human lymphocytes *in vitro* and mouse micronucleus formation *in vivo*, and the unscheduled DNA synthesis in primary rat hepatocytes *in vitro* assay.

In rats, decreases in the number of corpora lutea and the percentage of implants were noted at inhalation tiotropium doses of 0.078 mg/kg/day or greater (approximately 35 times the RHDD on a mg/m² basis). No such effects were observed at 0.009 mg/kg/day (approximately 4 times than the RHDD on a mg/m² basis). The fertility index, however, was not affected at inhalation doses up to 1.689 mg/kg/day (approximately 760 times the RHDD on a mg/m² basis). These dose multiples may be over-estimated due to difficulties in measuring deposited doses in animal inhalation studies.

Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category C

No evidence of structural alterations was observed in rats and rabbits at inhalation tiotropium doses of up to 1.471 and 0.007 mg/kg/day, respectively. These doses correspond to approximately 660 and 5 times the recommended human daily dose (RHDD) on a mg/m² basis. However, in rats, fetal resorption, litter loss, decreases in the number of live pups at birth and the mean pup weights, and a delay in pup sexual maturation were observed at inhalation tiotropium doses of ≥ 0.078 mg/kg (approximately 35 times the RHDD on a mg/m² basis). In rabbits, an increase in post-implantation loss was observed at an inhalation dose of 0.4 mg/kg/day (approximately 360 times the RHDD on a mg/m² basis). Such effects were not observed at inhalation doses of 0.009 and up to 0.088 mg/kg/day in rats and rabbits, respectively. These doses correspond to approximately 4 and 80 times the RHDD on a mg/m² basis, respectively. These dose multiples may be over-estimated due to difficulties in measuring deposited doses in animal inhalation studies.

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. SPIRIVA should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Use in Labor and Delivery

The safety and effectiveness of SPIRIVA has not been studied during labor and delivery.

Nursing Mothers

Clinical data from nursing women exposed to tiotropium are not available. Based on lactating rodent studies, tiotropium is excreted into breast milk. It is not known whether tiotropium is excreted in human milk, but because many drugs are excreted in human milk and given these findings in rats, caution should be exercised if SPIRIVA is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use

SPIRIVA HandiHaler is approved for use in the maintenance treatment of bronchospasm associated with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, including chronic bronchitis and emphysema. This disease does not normally occur in children. The safety and effectiveness of SPIRIVA in pediatric patients have not been established.

Geriatric Use

Of the total number of patients who received SPIRIVA in the 1-year clinical trials, 426 were <65 years, 375 were 65–74 years and 105 were ≥ 75 years of age. Within each age subgroup, there were no differences between the proportion of patients with adverse events in the SPIRIVA and

the comparator groups for most events. Dry mouth increased with age in the SPIRIVA group (differences from placebo were 9.0%, 17.1%, and 16.2% in the aforementioned age subgroups). A higher frequency of constipation and urinary tract infections with increasing age was observed in the SPIRIVA group in the placebo-controlled studies. The differences from placebo for constipation were 0%, 1.8%, and 7.8% for each of the age groups. The differences from placebo for urinary tract infections were $\sim 0.6\%$, 4.6% and 4.5%. No overall differences in effectiveness were observed among these groups. Based on available data, no adjustment of SPIRIVA dosage in geriatric patients is warranted.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Of the 2,663 patients in the four 1-year and two 6-month controlled clinical trials, 1,308 were treated with SPIRIVA (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) at the recommended dose of 18 mcg once a day. Patients with narrow angle glaucoma, or symptomatic prostatic hypertrophy or bladder outlet obstruction were excluded from these trials.

The most commonly reported adverse drug reaction was dry mouth. Dry mouth was usually mild and often resolved during continued treatment. Other reactions reported in individual patients and consistent with possible anticholinergic effects included constipation, increased heart rate, blurred vision, glaucoma, urinary difficulty, and urinary retention.

Four multicenter, 1-year, controlled studies evaluated SPIRIVA in patients with COPD. Table 1 shows all adverse events that occurred with a frequency of $\geq 3\%$ in the SPIRIVA group in the 1-year placebo-controlled trials where the rates in the SPIRIVA group exceeded placebo by $\geq 1\%$. The frequency of corresponding events in the ipratropium-controlled trials is included for comparison.

Table 1: Adverse Experience Incidence (% Patients) in One-Year-COPD Clinical Trials

Body System (Event)	Placebo-Controlled Trials SPIRIVA [n = 550]	Placebo [n = 371]	Ipratropium-Controlled Trials SPIRIVA [n = 356]	Ipratropium [n = 179]
Body as a Whole				
Accidents	13	11	5	8
Chest Pain (non-specific)	7	5	5	2
Edema, Dependent	5	4	3	5
Gastrointestinal System Disorders				
Abdominal Pain	5	3	6	6
Constipation	4	2	1	1
Dry Mouth	16	3	12	6
Dyspepsia	6	5	1	1
Vomiting	4	2	1	2
Musculoskeletal System				
Myalgia	4	3	4	3
Resistance Mechanism Disorders				
Infection	4	3	1	3
Moniliasis	4	2	3	2
Respiratory System (upper)				
Epistaxis	4	2	1	1
Pharyngitis	9	7	7	3
Rhinitis	6	5	3	2
Sinusitis	11	9	3	2
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection	41	37	43	35
Skin and Appendage Disorders				
Rash	4	2	2	2
Urinary System				
Urinary Tract Infection	7	5	4	2

Arthritis, coughing, and influenza-like symptoms occurred at a rate of $\geq 3\%$ in the SPIRIVA treatment group, but were <1% in excess of the placebo group.

Other events that occurred in the SPIRIVA group at a frequency of 1–3% in the placebo-controlled trials where the rates exceeded that in the placebo group include: *Body as a Whole*: allergic reaction, leg pain; *Central and Peripheral Nervous System*: dysphonia, paresthesia; *Gastrointestinal System Disorders*: gastrointestinal disorder not otherwise specified (NOS), gastroesophageal reflux, stomatitis (including ulcerative stomatitis); *Metabolic and Nutritional Disorders*: hypercholesterolemia, hyperglycemia; *Musculoskeletal System Disorders*: skeletal pain; *Cardiac Events*: angina pectoris (including aggravated angina pectoris); *Psychiatric Disorder*: depression; *Infections*: herpes zoster; *Respiratory System Disorder (Upper)*: laryngitis; *Vision Disorder*: cataract. In addition, among the adverse events observed in the clinical trials with an incidence of <1% were atrial fibrillation, supraventricular tachycardia, angioedema, and urinary retention.

In the 1-year trials, the incidence of dry mouth, constipation, and urinary tract infection increased with age (see **PRECAUTIONS, Geriatric Use**).

Two multicenter, 6-month, controlled studies evaluated SPIRIVA in patients with COPD. The adverse events and the incidence rates were similar to those seen in the 1-year controlled trials. The following adverse reactions have been identified during worldwide post-approval use of SPIRIVA: dizziness, dysphagia, epistaxis, hoarseness, intestinal obstruction including ileus paralytic, intraocular pressure increased, oral candidiasis, palpitations, pruritus, tachycardia, throat irritation, and urticaria.

DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION

The recommended dosage of SPIRIVA HandiHaler (tiotropium bromide inhalation powder) is the inhalation of the contents of one SPIRIVA capsule, once-daily, with the HandiHaler inhalation device (see **Patient's Instructions for Use**).

No dosage adjustment is required for geriatric, hepatically-impaired, or renally-impaired patients. However, patients with moderate to severe renal impairment given SPIRIVA should be monitored closely (see **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics, Special Populations and PRECAUTIONS**).

SPIRIVA capsules are for inhalation only and must not be swallowed.

HOW SUPPLIED

The following packages are available:

carton containing 5 SPIRIVA capsules (1 unit-dose blister card) and 1 HandiHaler inhalation device (NDC 0597-0075-75)

carton containing 30 SPIRIVA capsules (3 unit-dose blister cards) and 1 HandiHaler inhalation device (NDC 0597 0075-41)

carton containing 90 SPIRIVA capsules (9 unit-dose blister cards) and 1 HandiHaler inhalation device (NDC 0597 0075-47)

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There is, however, a sensible strategy that would work, based on four basic points.

1. Enforce the laws. Numerous laws already exist that, if enforced in a targeted manner, would discourage illegal immigration and the employment of illegal labor and send a signal that such activities will no longer be overlooked. Recent actions by the administration prove that reasonable enforcement measures – well short of massive deportations – can significantly reduce the number of illegal border crossings.

2. Regain control of the southern border. Many of the border-security provisions of the Senate proposal are being implemented as requirements of previous legislation, including the Secure Fences Act of 2006 and the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. This should continue. Responsible border security and workplace enforcement makes America safer.

3. Emphasize legal immigration. The process by which individuals enter the country legally must be fair, orderly and efficient – welcoming those who abide by immigration laws and denying entry and advantages to those who violate the law. The integrity of this process is important to protecting and encouraging a meaningful naturalization and citizenship process.

4. Create flexible legal opportunities to work in the United States. A balanced and well-constructed temporary worker program that allows for a market-driven source of labor provided by a rotating temporary workforce would diminish incentives for illegal immigration by providing an additional option for legal entry. This would foster national security and serve a growing economy.

Together, these elements – along with a rejection of amnesty – offer a real possibility for strengthening national security and replacing an undocumented labor force with temporary workers and new legal immigrants. Additional options may become reasonable once these policies are allowed to operate over time.

This strategy is realistic and feasible in the short term. Most of the tools required to beef up border security and pursue workplace enforcement already have been passed and mostly authorized by Congress. The only missing programmatic component is a practical and realistic alternative for legal temporary workers.

Without serious policy change, the illegal population in the United States will continue to grow, the burden on local communities will increase, the stresses on civil society will become greater, and border security will become more expensive while remaining just as ineffective. On the other hand, with a handful of initiatives, Congress and an administration working to implement existing and new national security and immigration laws could achieve a comprehensive solution in a reasonable amount of time. A far brighter future would unfold.

As with any major policy goal, reducing illegal entry and presence in the United States will take time and perseverance. Likewise, it is misleading and naïve to suggest that every policy aspect can and should be settled up front in one all-encompassing agreement. The challenge is to answer the big questions first so that the others fall into place or are susceptible to later resolution. This approach to immigration is analogous to the policy success of welfare reform in the 1990s. The use of incentives and disincentives to encourage work reduced welfare rolls over time by 60 percent, through the decreased entry and increased exit of welfare-program participants.

Securing a future where America's borders are no longer porous, its laws are respected, and illegal labor is replaced by legal workers and legal immigrants is an achievable objective. The way forward is not to repeat the failures of the past but to pursue an incremental strategy of real reforms. With these steps, the president and Congress can deliver on their promises to provide border security and to realize comprehensive immigration reform. This achievement would help lawmakers to not only regain the trust and confidence of the American people, but also to meet their solemn obligations to keep the nation safe, prosperous and free for all Americans – and all those who will become Americans – today and for generations to come. 🌿

James Carafano, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, is an expert in defense affairs, military operations and strategy, and homeland security at The Heritage Foundation. A former assistant professor at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, he has authored many books and studies.

JUNE 28

Authorities issue warrants against Arizona ring suspected of smuggling 15,000 illegal immigrants a year

JUNE 27

Two killed, eight injured in head-on crash fleeing Border Patrol near San Diego

JUNE 22

Thirty-eight criminal aliens, fugitive aliens and other immigration violators apprehended in three-day Wyoming-Colorado crackdown

JUNE 21

31-foot tunnel found under construction near Tijuana border



TERROR'S FREE RIDE

CRITICAL MISSION
AFTER 9/11 MISSION
IMPOSSIBLE TODAY



BY KEN OLSEN

IN CYBERSPACE

More than 100 federal agents descended upon the bucolic town of Moscow, Idaho, early one February morning in 2003, searched the homes of several Muslim students and arrested a Saudi national enrolled at the University of Idaho.

Prosecutors alleged 33-year-old Sami Omar Al-Hussayen used his computer expertise to help two Islamic front groups raise money and recruit foot soldiers via the Internet. The inevitable press conference featured state and federal officials proclaiming another victory in the global war on terror.

The federal government's case soon started evaporating. A U.S. District Court jury in reliably conservative Idaho acquitted Al-Hussayen of terrorism charges. He agreed not to fight deportation and returned to Saudi Arabia.

The failed Idaho investigation is an apt analogy for the U.S. fight against terrorism in cyberspace. All-out digital warfare has been touted as a major piece of the nation's strategy since long before U.S. troops arrived in Iraq. Yet, accurately identifying – much less eliminating – al-Qaeda and its ilk from the World Wide Web is increasingly elusive.

Six years after 9/11, jihadist use of cyberspace is bolder, better and ever expanding. Terrorist Web sites reappear soon after they are attacked. Ten times more terrorist videos were posted on the Internet in 2006 than in 2002. What once appeared as simple as freezing assets, unplugging computers and e-mailing terrorists anti-jihad viruses increasingly appears impossible. Many intelligence experts now question whether the United States has any chance of crippling the enemy's most formidable communications and propaganda device.

"It's a problem we recognize and can't do much about," says Michael Scheuer, a former senior CIA analyst who – during his 22-year career at the agency – established the

intelligence agency's first dedicated Osama bin Laden unit and then was sidelined for his no-holes-barred approach to eliminating the terrorist leader. "One part of the doctrine has been information dominance. That's gone out the window. The enemy enjoys information dominance."

America's best strategy involves a better understanding of the enemy, more thoughtful foreign policy and a revival of the use of human spies to gather information on the ground, Scheuer says.

Terrorists have long excelled at adopting new technology. Chechen rebels started distributing videotapes of their ambushes of Soviet soldiers several years ago, says Ben Venzke, CEO of IntelCenter, a Virginia-based company that closely tracks jihadist Web traffic. It was a brilliant propaganda coup. Every time someone watches that sort of video, "it's as if I'm killing soldiers over and over and over again," Venzke says.

Propaganda became an important component of the Afghan resistance against the Soviets in the 1980s. By the early 1990s, al-Qaeda brought that expertise to cyberspace, initially using the Web to criticize the Saudi government under the banner of the Advice and Reform Committee.

Since those first Chechen videotapes started circulating, improvements in the Internet, computers and editing software have made it possible for any amateur to quickly produce and distribute a near studio-quality video anywhere in the world. Some of the most visible evidence of terrorists' success is the incredible increase in the number of videos al-Qaeda and other groups produce. Six such videos were distributed on the Internet in 2002, Venzke says. Fifty-eight al-Qaeda videos were posted in 2006, and that number is expected to more than double this year. An

FORMER NAVAL OFFICER FIGHTS CYBER CRIME IN PRIVATE SECTOR

The Chinese hackers came in low and slow. They entered the U.S. defense contractor's computer system at different times of the day. They probed at a snail's pace, careful to avoid security sensors.

Over the next several weeks, the hackers – operating from a cyber café in a foreign country – planted a stealth channel into the defense contractor's network.

The contractor's computer-security team noticed an increase in traffic between certain computers, but incorrectly identified it as a virus instead of a covert channel. Because it failed to identify and solve the problem, the defense contractor's problems worsened. Jim Butterworth and his team were called in.

Butterworth is a Sherlock Holmes of inner space. He trained himself in computer forensics during his last two years as a computer network defense

intrusion analyst for the Naval Fleet Information Warfare Center. Today the retired chief petty officer is director of incident response for Guidance

Software. The job calls for both human and electronic sleuthing.

"You can do a lot with software," Butterworth says. "But the software doesn't do what a trained investigator does."

Butterworth and his team took these skills to the defense contracting company, loading specialized software that allowed them to see the fingerprints and footprints of the Chinese hackers – without alerting them.

The Guidance Software team constructed a profile of the foreign hackers and started searching the defense contractor's computer network. They discovered the Chinese infiltrators were conducting reconnaissance on a dozen computers. Address books, e-mails and a great deal of information about defense contracts all were stolen.

While Butterworth's crew was at work, the hackers returned to continue their information burglary. In the end, Guidance not only stopped the thieves but also helped the contractor secure its computer system.

It's all too routine.

"This is happening all the time, every day, in the military, the government, and industry," Butterworth says. "This is a serious effort from foreign agents, foreign governments, organized crime and computer hobbyists."

Later, the defense contractor made a substantial investment in security and an incident-response team. That's the sort of thing the U.S. government and industry need to do as well, Butterworth says. "The people who defend the networks are severely understaffed and under-funded. We need to treat defense of our (computer) infrastructure with the knowledge that the information behind that infrastructure is the keys to our kingdom."

– Ken Olsen



umbrella group for several smaller terrorist groups called the Islamic State of Iraq, meanwhile, already averages one new video per day.

Terrorists also are mastering more sophisticated staging and more persuasive storylines that go well beyond real-time feeds of battles with U.S. forces. They even create graphics and other features to promote the release of new videos.

The videos are designed to simultaneously send messages to the United States, boost morale among terrorist groups, recruit new members and raise money. "They are looking to kill a number of birds with one stone," Venzke says.

The Internet also is used to command and control far-flung bands of terrorists, distribute training manuals, and disseminate news and religious propaganda.

The Internet provides a highly effective, quick and relatively expensive weapon in the war. It also inflates the identities of relatively small terror groups. "It gives them global status and a global ability to communicate securely," Scheuer says. "They are a global enemy because of the Internet."

Another effective component: target audience. The Internet reaches a largely middle- and upper-class population. "Al-Qaeda's appeal in the Islamic world isn't the people we think of who tend toward

terror," Scheuer says. "Their appeal is to the best and the brightest in the Islamic world."

The terrorist infestation of the Internet particularly frustrates John Arquilla, director of the Naval Postgraduate School's Information Operations Center. And he believes the United States is yielding too easily.

"In my view, the enemy cannot subsist without cyberspace," Arquilla says. "A very high-level defense official said to me – when I briefed him on this problem – 'We are giving the enemy a free ride in cyberspace.' Job No. 1 should be to drive them out of cyberspace."

Arquilla is calling for a new Bletchley Park, modeled on the massive World War II effort that brought together mathematicians, magicians, cryptographers and con men to crack sophisticated and ever-changing German and Japanese codes. The modern effort would include the best minds from the intelligence community and the military, leading academics, master hackers and top people in computer technology. The effort would cost about \$6 billion – two to three weeks of ordinary war cost in Iraq – and would take about a year, Arquilla estimates.

"If we got inside the terrorists' networks' information systems, we could disrupt them immedi-

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ately and have a good chance of destroying them completely,” Arquilla says. “It’s a win for us if we secretly monitor al-Qaeda’s (Web) traffic. It’s also a win if our monitoring capability is discovered and al-Qaeda becomes reluctant to use cyberspace.”

CIA veteran Scheuer, however, says there’s no way to knock terrorists out of cyberspace. The Internet is too complex, accessible and ever-shifting. “We’re not just trying to crack a safe,” Scheuer says. “We’re trying to crack a safe where the lock is constantly changing.”

Widely publicized efforts to shut down Web sites, which started immediately after 9/11, “have led (terrorists) to go to school about how to better protect their Web sites,” Venzke adds.

Blocking Internet distribution of terrorist videos appears to be equally futile. “There’s just no way you can prevent these things from getting out,” he says. “Look at how the recording industry will spend \$2 million to encrypt music videos, and within two days some kid cracks the code.”

The proliferation of propaganda videos elicits a visceral reaction from the average citizen, he acknowledges. But enemy information displayed on Web sites can be useful. “Would you rather have an enemy you have never seen, you have never heard and you have never watched train?” Venzke asks. “Or would you rather watch countless hours of their training, their operations, and their mid- and senior-level managers to get a clearer picture of who the enemy is and what they are trying to do next? We can’t stop it. There are all kinds of opportunities to exploit it.”

Bureaucracy, not surprisingly, also thwarts the war in cyberspace. Terrorist groups are nimble, fluid and able to adopt new technology the day it arrives on the market, while federal agencies take months to process the paperwork required to purchase new software.

There’s also the impossible task of isolating terrorist e-mails among the billions of messages sent each day, as well as the massive amount of time required to decipher any encoded e-mail, Scheuer says. “We haven’t recognized how much we can’t control it,” he says. “I think we must continue to try to intercept electronic messages. The enemy is always going to have the advantage.”

James Bamford, author of several books about the National Security Agency, says trying to make the nation’s pre-eminent electronic espionage agency into an Internet sleuth is a waste of money.

“I think the NSA does play an important role in helping to locate terrorists and monitor their communications,” Bamford says. “But they are

only occasionally successful. For example, they never discovered the first World Trade Center, the attack on the USS *Cole*, the attacks on the U.S. embassies in East Africa and 9/11. Given the NSA’s lack of success in preventing terrorist acts (as opposed to catching those responsible afterward), the best way to eliminate the risk is to change our disastrous foreign policy.”

NSA, meanwhile, has a more important role watching countries with nuclear capability, such as North Korea, or those developing nuclear weapons, in order to prevent a surprise attack.

America’s strategy, most analysts agree, must include standard cloak-and-dagger tactics: putting people on the ground to gather names, personal address books, bank-account numbers, letters and personal computers – the sort of information that makes it easier to track terrorists on all fronts.

“It’s so important to have clandestine human operations,” Scheuer says. Among other things, the most important terrorist communications, he says, “are delivered by personal courier.”

In the propaganda war, it’s not merely how the enemy is communicating, it’s what he is saying. Most often, Scheuer says, the message has little to do with al-Qaeda’s despise of democracy, women’s rights and Western culture. “Bin Laden’s genius is focusing terrorists on the foreign policy of the United States as a threat to their religion.”

Scheuer uses as an example the public display of the United States replenishing Israel’s stock of precision weapons during the war against Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon last summer. “It reinforces arguments made by our enemy that we will do whatever we can to help Israelis kill Muslims,” he says. Better to provide such support quietly, not in a form that makes the evening newscast, followed by a rebroadcast on terrorists’ Web sites.

It is one aspect of the war that – despite a concentrated effort after 9/11 – remains elusive as bin Laden himself. And it remains a critical tool in the war of words and images between terrorism and freedom, a tool that U.S. forces cannot seem to wrestle away from enemy hands. Their relative superiority in the cyberspace battleground is only now understood as a way in which America might have underestimated the will of its adversaries.

“Until we understand these people, have a respect for their capabilities and their abilities to adapt to whatever they have, we can’t defeat them,” Scheuer says. “We are fighting the enemy we want to fight, not the enemy that’s there.” 🌿

Ken Olsen is a writer from Spokane, Wash.

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A close-up portrait of Nicolas Sarkozy, the French president at the time, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie.

France's new president appears determined to thaw the ice with America.

BY ALAN W. DOWD

When he took the helm of the French Republic in May, President Nicolas Sarkozy went out of his way to deliver a special message to his “American friends.” In a striking departure from the chilly attitude toward Washington that characterized the words and actions of his predecessor, Sarkozy declared, “France will always be by their side when they need her,” adding that “friendship is also accepting the fact that friends can think differently.”

In other words, Sarkozy won't always fall in line behind this U.S. president or the next. But he promises an improvement over Jacques Chirac's Franco-American tension. Where Chirac seemed to embody France's postwar inferiority complex, Sarkozy exudes self-confidence. Where Chirac offered knee-jerk anti-Americanism, Sarkozy offers admiration. Where Chirac dreamed of forging a counterweight to the United States, Sarkozy sees a confluence of interests.

Sarkozy the Self-Confident. A self-described “man of action,” Sarkozy first made news on this side of the Atlantic during the social unrest that roiled several Paris ghettos in 2005. Even as Chirac called for “dialogue,” Sarkozy – who was then interior minister – wielded emergency powers to restore law and order. “The people responsible will be arrested and punished,” he announced, drawing praise and criticism for calling the rioters “rabble.”

It was an early indication that Sarkozy would be different than other French politicians. Further proof came during his presidential bid, when he challenged French immigration policies, declaring that France could not be “home for all the world's miseries”; condemned the 1968 student revolts in France; called for tax-slashing economic reforms; heaped scorn on France's left-wing parties for siding with “thugs, troublemakers and fraudsters”; and

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Presidents Bush and Sarkozy are poised to build on their nations' common interests rather than let past differences further erode relations between the two Western powers. AP/Evan Vucci

even requested a meeting and photo-op with President George W. Bush, whose approval rating is far lower in France than it is in America.

Spurred by soaring poll numbers and a solid legislative majority, Sarkozy has moved quickly on several fronts as president, standing up for French firms by striking references to “free and undistorted” competition in a new European Union treaty, blocking progress on Turkey’s future membership in the European Union, pushing for a more balanced dollar-euro exchange rate and pressing the United States on global warming. But he is focusing most of his energies on challenges inside France, especially the country’s limping economy. Sarkozy takes over one of Europe’s weakest economies, with a growth rate of barely 2 percent and an unemployment rate of almost 9 percent. As an analysis conducted by The American Enterprise Institute detailed in 2005, government spending accounts for 54 percent of France’s GDP, just 52 percent of the French population is working, and per-capita economic output in France is just 73 percent of per-capita output in the United States.

To remedy these ills, Sarkozy has proposed exempting overtime earnings from taxation, virtually eliminating the inheritance tax, capping individual taxes at 50 percent, granting employers more flexibility in firing employees and reducing the number of public-sector employees through attrition.

Perhaps motivated by the 2005 riots, Sarkozy also promises to craft a “controlled” immigration policy and an “ambitious” development policy. “The domestic agenda is moving nicely,” says Kenneth Weinstein, CEO of the Hudson Institute and an expert on French and European politics. He notes that Sarkozy was so eager to get things done that he was pushing major reforms “when everyone else in France was on vacation.”

In light of his ambitious plans, Sarkozy’s critics have mockingly called him “minister of everything.” But one suspects the high-energy Sarkozy wears the label with pride.

Sarkozy the American. Another intended put-down Sarkozy wears with pride is “Sarkozy the American.” Indeed, a *New York Times* analysis of the new French leader called him “unabashedly pro-American.”

Sarkozy himself has explained, “I have no intention of apologizing for feeling an affinity for the greatest democracy in the world.” Invoking memories of the postwar partnership that forged NATO and rescued West Berlin, he calls himself an Atlanticist and promises “to rebuild the transatlantic relationship.” This is a refreshing departure from Chirac, whose zero-sum foreign policy elevated the European Union at the expense of transatlantic ties. Sarkozy, like Britain’s former Prime Minister Tony Blair and Germany’s Angela Merkel, believes in a strong European Union and a positive partnership with Washington.

“Chirac was obsessive about counterbalancing the U.S.,” Weinstein explains. “Sarkozy does not believe that the French national interest requires opposing the U.S. on a regular basis.”

Sarkozy waxes romantic about America. He quotes George Washington and references Rochambeau and Yorktown. He speaks of Elvis, Sinatra, Madonna and Hemingway. Blue jeans, burgers and of course, the two 20th-century wars that left deep scars on his country and continent. “When a young American soldier dies anywhere else in the world,” he said in 2006, “I can’t help but think that he has the same face as one who came to die for us in 1917 or 1944.”

He has even conceded what most Americans have sensed for decades – that the French elites’ reaction to America “reflects a certain envy, not to say jealousy, of your brilliant success.”

Although he opposed the war in Iraq, Sarkozy has made it clear that he would not have acted like Chirac, who dispatched his foreign minister to organize international opposition against Wash-

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ington. “You must have loathed us at that time,” he has observed, adding, “It’s not appropriate to try to embarrass one’s allies.”

Yet that’s exactly what Chirac did before the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. “It is unimaginable that Sarkozy would send his foreign minister around the globe to thwart U.S. foreign policy,” Weinstein says.

Even as Chirac undermined Washington’s diplomatic efforts at the United Nations and military plans in Iraq, Sarkozy was trying to maintain the transatlantic bridge. A *Newsweek* analysis concluded that “quiet but effective cooperation between Paris and Washington in counterterrorism reached new heights during Sarkozy’s two terms as interior minister.”

Quite unlike his predecessor, Sarkozy recognizes the great confluence of interests that unite France and the United States, especially in a post-9/11 world. Sarkozy outlined these in late 2006:

- Fighting global terrorism and disrupting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Responding to humanitarian disasters and rebuilding failed states.
- Spreading democracy “throughout the world.”
- Preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear state.

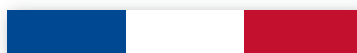
He calls Iran “an outlaw nation,” citing its support for Hezbollah and its refusal to accept the historical reality of the Holocaust. “The prospect of such a regime armed with weapons as destructive as nuclear missiles is terrifying,” Sarkozy observes.

On the eve of the election, Sarkozy declared a nuclear Iran “unacceptable and dangerous.” Soon after his election victory, he called for tighter sanctions on Iran and closed ranks with the United States in a formal protest of Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the U.N.’s nuclear watchdog agency. ElBaradei recently undercut the West’s anti-nuclear efforts in Iran by recommending that Tehran be allowed to enrich uranium.

As for the likely target of Iran’s arsenal, Sarkozy openly defends “the right of Israel to protect itself against external aggression, particularly when it takes the form of blind and cowardly acts of terrorism.” Without a note of moral relativism, he blames Hezbollah for the 2006 war in lower Lebanon.

Contrast this with Sarkozy’s predecessor or with his opponent in the 2007 election, Segolene Royal. Chirac visited Yasser Arafat’s deathbed and called the lifelong terrorist “a man of courage and conviction.” Royal commiserated with a Hezbollah lawmaker and agreed with his view that Bush suffered from “unlimited dementia.”

Moreover, as Weinstein observes, “Sarkozy deeply cares about human rights in Russia, in China and around the globe.” This, too, represents a departure from Chiracism and a welcome realignment with Washington.



Sarkozy’s presidential profile

- 1955** Born in Paris
- 1978** Earned a master’s degree in private law
- 1983** Elected mayor of Neuilly-sur-Seine
- 1988** Elected deputy of the National Assembly
- 1993** Appointed minister of the Budget
- 1994** Appointed minister of Communication
- 2002** Appointed minister of the Interior, Internal Security and Local Freedoms
- 2004** Appointed minister of the Economy, Finance and Industry
- 2005** Appointed minister of the Interior and Town and Country Planning
- 2007** Elected president of the French Republic

Source: Embassy of France

Where We Differ. Still, Sarkozy will not always march in lockstep with Washington. For example, he opposes Turkey’s entry into the European Union. “Turkey is not a European country,” he bluntly said earlier this year. Yet Washington has urged the European Union to accelerate Turkey’s application into the economic club.

He suggested in April that he would withdraw French forces from Afghanistan, although he reversed himself in June, promising “our Canadian and American friends that we will not break the allies’ solidarity in the battle that is under way against terrorism in Afghanistan.”

On global climate change, Sarkozy has challenged the

United States “to wake up and make this a battle for the protection of our planet.” He dismissed Bush’s recent proposal for industrialized nations to reduce greenhouse gases as “not sufficient.”

As Weinstein explains, “Sarkozy is not really a new Tony Blair. He will expect more from the U.S. than Tony Blair did.”

The good news is that Washington can expect more from Sarkozy’s France than it did from Chirac’s. That alone is a step in the right direction not just for two nations with a long and storied past, but for the future of the entire world. 🌿

Alan W. Dowd, a senior fellow at the Sagamore Institute, is a contributing editor to The American Legion Magazine.

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WAR on FILM

Festival spotlights cinema's most heroic soldiers.

BY JOHN RAUGHTER

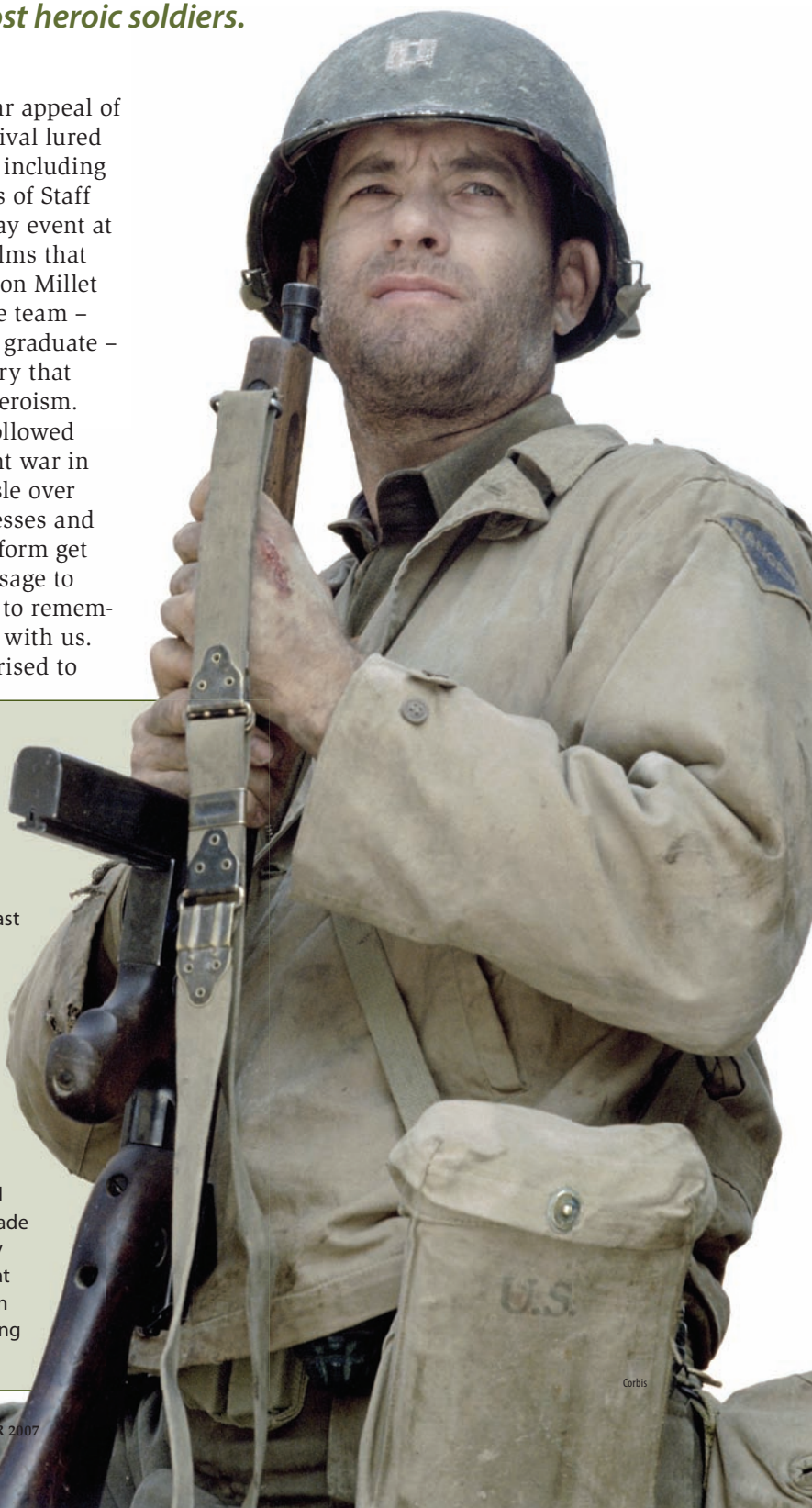
It may not yet have the acclaim and star appeal of Cannes, but the first-ever GI Film Festival lured its own throng of celebrities last spring, including singer Pat Boone and former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Richard B. Myers. The four-day event at the Ronald Reagan Center featured 22 films that lived up to the billing of founders Brandon Millet and Laura Law-Millet. The husband-wife team – she a U.S. Army veteran and West Point graduate – wanted to showcase films through history that have demonstrated American military heroism.

“Simply put, it occurred to us as we followed closely the public debate over the current war in Iraq, that sometimes in the political tussle over this particular conflict or that, the successes and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform get lost,” the Millets stated in a written message to festival attendees last May. “We wanted to remember, and we wanted others to remember with us. In doing a bit of research, we were surprised to

The best war films ever

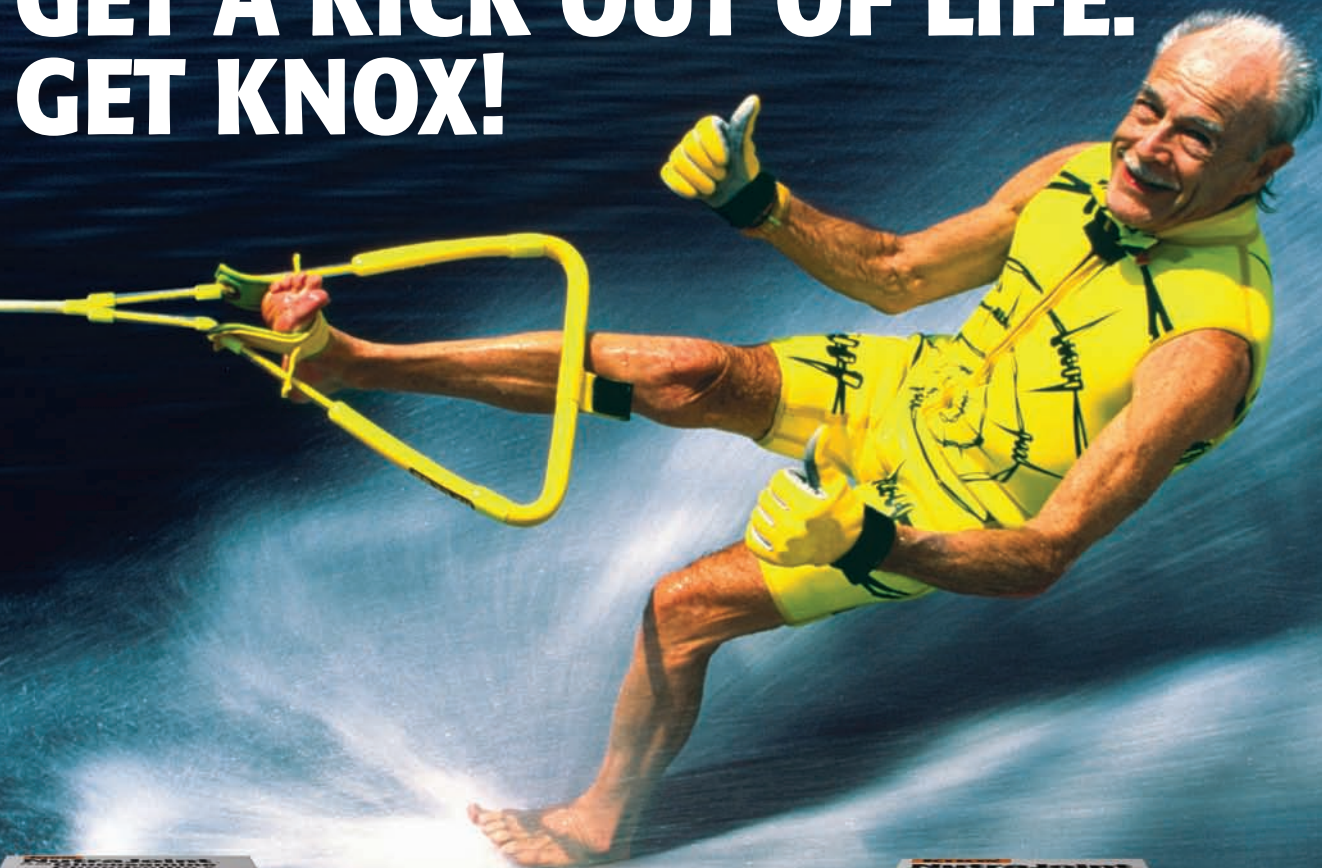
Early this year, *The American Legion Magazine* asked veterans to name the best war movie ever. Hundreds of responses poured in, and when the counting was done, the winner was 1998's “Saving Private Ryan.” The results were announced at the GI Film Festival in Washington last Memorial Day weekend.

Seventy-one different war films were named by readers who submitted ballots. Dale Dye, a military adviser and actor in “Saving Private Ryan,” accepted a plaque from The American Legion, which he later delivered to director Steven Spielberg. The plaque's inscription, signed by then-National Commander Paul A. Morin, read, “No one knows the cost of war better than those who have experienced it. That firsthand experience by America's wartime veterans have made them the foremost experts in judging the accuracy and credibility of American war films. It is with great pleasure that the men and women of The American Legion, as indicated by a recent survey, name ‘Saving Private Ryan’ as ‘The Best War Film Ever.’”



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find that among the hundreds of film festivals held each year, not one of them specifically focused on the military. And the GI Film Festival was born.”

Director John Dahl, whose 2005 release “The Great Raid” accurately portrayed the rescue of more than 500 men imprisoned in a Japanese POW camp, hosted a screening of his film. He said the original script called for a few Rambo-type characters to pull off the mission rather than the Army’s 6th Ranger Battalion that actually did it.

That original script might have been easier to produce, but it would not have matched reality. He went with reality. “The most difficult challenge in portraying real military stories in a Hollywood film is the temptation to amp up the action, consolidate characters and oversimplify the strategy,” Dahl said.

The festival featured several unscripted panel discussions that often strayed out of the film industry and into politics and media. Actor and Marine veteran R. Lee Ermey, best known as the tough-as-nails drill instructor in “Full Metal Jacket,” had strong opinions about both.

“When you hear Sen. Harry Reid say we lost the

war, how do you suppose that makes the troops feel?” Ermey said. “You keep seeing the story of the young lady who threatened an Iraqi prisoner with a dog, but when an American soldier is killed and dragged through the streets naked it’s only a one-day story. The media will say we are losing the war, but we are not losing the war.”

Editor and author Andrew Carroll, whose books “Letters of a Nation” and “War Letters” were *New York Times* best-sellers, said that some in the media are afraid that by reporting the heroism of the troops they are somehow legitimizing the war. “Every time we see a story on Rosie O’Donnell, Paris Hilton or Anna Nicole, we are not reading about the heroes of Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Country music artist Michael Peterson performed his song “It’s Who We Are” at the festival and used the event as a opportunity to interview celebrities who support The American Legion’s American Legacy Scholarship Fund. “I think it’s fantastic to take that slice of American life and highlight it at this time in America’s history,” Peterson said of the GI Film Festival.

“CSI:NY” star Gary Sinise accepted the festival’s

The Legion’s Top 10

‘Saving Private Ryan’

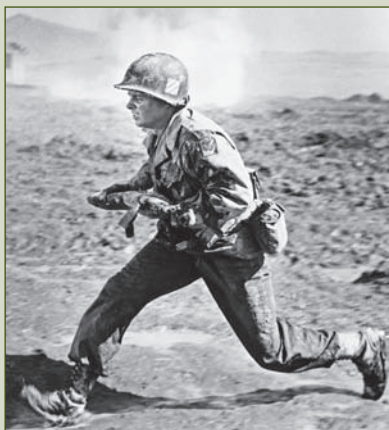
The 1998 film was an Oscar nominee for Best Picture but was beaten out by “Shakespeare in Love.” Starring Tom Hanks and Matt Damon, the movie was not without its critics, among them some veterans who questioned the mission. The wisdom of risking the lives of many men to find one just to spare a mother the loss of another son to the war was also doubted by one of the film’s characters. “Don’t we all have mothers?” grouched Pvt. Reiben.

Retired Marine Capt. Dale Dye, who served as the film’s technical adviser, acknowledged some imperfections, such as the shining rank insignia worn by Hanks and the conversations that occurred while men walked on patrol. “Reality can sometimes be boring, and you have to have dialogue to keep the film moving,” Dye said.

What makes this film special, many of the voters said, is the heroism and horror depicted in the D-Day landing and the bond shared by those who fought alongside each other.

“My vote for ‘Best War Movie Ever’ is

‘Saving Private Ryan,’” wrote John Gerfen of Ballwin, Mo. “Certainly there are a lot of very good movies that exemplify the spirit of U.S. fighting men and women. However, this one movie showed the brutality of war and the courage it took in the fight to liberate Europe from the Nazis.”



Audie Murphy as himself. Corbis

‘To Hell and Back’

This 1955 classic is unique because of its autobiographical nature. The star, Medal of Honor recipient Audie Murphy, played

himself. The most decorated soldier of World War II, Murphy was nearly rejected for enlistment because of his small stature. He more than proved his worth while fighting in the European theater. “To Hell and Back” re-creates the actions that led to Murphy’s Medal of Honor.

“This film, Audie Murphy’s story, left out all the usual clichés found in war movies and stayed away from the typical propaganda connected with this type of film,” wrote V.R. Vincent of Conrad, Mont. “It told the simple story of one ordinary American soldier serving his country and being recognized for what he was: an outstanding hero and patriot.”

‘The Longest Day’

Another D-Day film, this 1962 epic featured a cast that included John Wayne, Henry Fonda, Robert Mitchum, Sean Connery and Richard Burton. One notable person who lost out on a role, however, was former President Eisenhower. While Ike indicated a willingness to portray himself, make-up artists did not believe they could make the former two-term president resemble the younger version of himself. In one of

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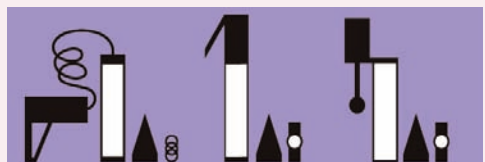


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“GI Spirit Award.” Sinise has entertained thousands of U.S. troops as bass guitarist for the Lt. Dan Band, a group named for his role as a Vietnam war double amputee in 1994’s “Forrest Gump.”

Sinise recalled a recent visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. “One of the

soldiers said he was like Lt. Dan now. It was a bad joke, I know, but there is nothing funny about the outstanding job that these brave men and women are doing.” 🌿

John Raughter is communications director for The American Legion.

the film’s more memorable lines, Brig. Gen. Norman Cota spells out his expectations to the men: “I don’t have to tell you the story. You all know it. Only two kinds of people are gonna stay on this beach: those that are already dead and those that are gonna die. Now get off your butts. You guys are the Fighting 29th.”

‘Band of Brothers’

This 2001 HBO 10-part miniseries reunited “Saving Private Ryan” alumni Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks and the late historian and author Stephen Ambrose as producers. Dye once again provided his military expertise.

“‘Band of Brothers’ is a war movie about comradeship at its best,” wrote Joe Langenbach, of Allentown, Pa. “We watch these paratroopers of Easy Company from their training in Georgia overseas to England to D-Day to V-E Day ... We see the mental strain and, in a few cases, breakdown of some men. All one has to do is watch this HBO movie to know that this is the way it was, without the Hollywood hype.”

‘Battleground’

The winner of two Academy Awards, this 1949 film portrays a 101st Airborne Division platoon at the Battle of the Bulge. It stars Van Johnson and Ricardo Montalban in a tale of survival against German spies wearing U.S. Army uniforms, relentless artillery, bitter winter weather, dwindling supplies and a fierce enemy. Filmed just five years after the real Battle of the Bulge, producers were able to find plenty of veterans to supply details.

“I was an infantry PFC during this battle and think the movie was an excellent representation of the way things were – the only lack of authenticity was, of course, the lack of profanity,” wrote William G. Howe of Schenectady, N.Y.

‘A Walk in the Sun’

Set in Italy, this 1945 World War II film does not rely on combat action but instead on the perspectives and observations of infantrymen who reveal their true characters while contemplating their mission, which is to capture an enemy-held farmhouse. Dana Andrews plays platoon squad leader Sgt. Tyne, who assumes command after his superiors are killed. Burgess Meredith supplies effective narration.

“It is an uncomplicated and low-tech story of a group of Americans doing a job,” wrote Roger Stryeski of Roselle, N.J. “The scene that I remember most was the Lloyd Bridges’ character commenting, as a farmer, on the poor quality of the Italian soil – what a metaphor.”

‘We Were Soldiers’

The only non-World War II film to finish in the top 10, this 2002 movie stars Mel Gibson as Lt. Col. Hal Moore, who leads the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry into Ia Drang Valley, the first major U.S. ground battle in the Vietnam War. The film is based on the book “We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young” by Moore and Joseph L. Galloway.

As Sgt. Maj. Basil Plumley, actor Sam Elliott delivers a memorable line when a soldier innocently comments on a “beautiful morning.” Plumley bluntly retorts, “What, are you a (expletive) weatherman now?”

“Most movies about Vietnam were garbage that made it look like U.S. soldiers were the bad guys,” wrote Samuel D. High of Lonoke, Ark. “This movie was based on real soldiers in a real battle, and it showed the honor and courage the vast majority of us had who served in Vietnam.”

‘Sands of Iwo Jima’

John Wayne stars as Marine Sgt. John

Stryker in this 1949 film, which earned the Duke his first Academy Award nomination. Real-life Mount Suribachi flag-raisers Rene Gagnon, Ira Hayes and John Bradley also appear in the film.



Gregory Peck as Brig. Gen. Frank Savage.

Corbis

‘Twelve O’Clock High’

Screenwriters Sy Barlett and Bernie Lay Jr. drew on their own World War II experiences with the 8th Air Force in this 1949 film starring Gregory Peck. “Twelve O’Clock High” includes actual combat footage, with other segments of the film shot at Eglin Air Force Base.

Peck doesn’t win any friends at first as hard-nosed Brig. Gen. Frank Savage, but the men eventually see the value in his approach. The film is often screened at leadership seminars and at the U.S. service academies.

‘The Story of GI Joe’

World War II was still being fought when this film was released in 1945. Sadly, war correspondent Ernie Pyle was killed in action on Okinawa without ever seeing it. Based on his experiences and newspaper dispatches from North Africa and Italy, the film stars Burgess Meredith and Robert Mitchum and is a no-holds-barred portrayal of the infantry, complete with mud, blood and death. Guadalcanal and Tarawa veteran Charles Wysocki of Green Valley, Ariz., writes: “It is the most realistic war movie I have ever seen.”

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actor and
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Sold on The American Legion

With decades of experience in military recruiting and sales, National Commander Marty Conatser is eager to grow the nation's largest veterans organization.

BY MATT GRILLS

Martin “Marty” Conatser is a membership guy, plain and simple.

He’ll tell you that. His friends and family will tell you that. Illinois Legionnaires – numbering nearly 129,000 thanks largely to Conatser’s efforts as the department’s first membership director – will tell you that. He’s a salesman by trade, and as national commander of The American Legion, he sees the organization as a valuable product to sell, a great deal for veterans and their families.

“We have tremendous people who give of themselves so freely, of their time and of their

energy and of their money,” says Conatser, who was elected at the 89th National Convention in August. “But we often don’t tell them that they’re part of a big program. Who’s fighting right now to get soldiers the equipment and medical gear they need, and to improve the GI Bill? How many Vietnam War veterans realize that the Legion filed the suit on Agent Orange? Those are the types of things The American Legion does routinely, and we don’t tell anybody.

“Membership and membership recruiting is about helping veterans understand what the



National Commander Marty Conatser has belonged to American Legion Lincoln Post 102 in Deland, Ill., for nearly 30 years. The American Legion remains the most active organization in the town of 450 people, many of them veterans. Tom Stratman

recruiting awards for all levels of leadership while pushing Illinois to 100 percent.

In 2002, Conatser began seriously considering a run for national commander. Recognizing he'd need a job with flexible hours and extended time off for travel – his candidacy has taken him to all 55 Legion departments and even to Iraq to visit with U.S. troops – Conatser joined Worden-Martin Auto Group in Champaign as a salesman.

“We all knew what we had right away,” says Wayne Weber, dealership president. “We decided early on we would allow him all the time off he needs to serve as national commander, because he’s so industrious anyway. When he’s here, it’s like double time for anyone else. You never have to worry about what he’s thinking or doing, because he’s always moving the ball down the field.”

Courtship and Courtside. Conatser and his wife, Sharon, own a house just minutes from the University of Illinois campus, where she works as an administrative assistant in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. They decided together that Marty should pursue the Legion’s highest office, and his campaign was a family affair. Sharon’s father, Clayborn Lofton, chaired the campaign committee, and her mother, Irene, served as co-treasurer. Clayborn is an Illinois past department commander, and Irene is a past president of the Illinois Auxiliary.

“They think I’m the best thing that ever happened to Sharon,” Conatser jokes. The couple met through her parents in 1989, on a bus trip to the 71st National Convention in Baltimore. Both Sharon and Marty were divorced at the time, and both were already heavily involved in American Legion activities. They fell in love and married the next year. Between them, they have three sons, Richard, Rick and Bryan, and three grandchildren.

The American Legion is every bit as important to Sharon as it is her husband; she grew up attending meetings and conventions, and, like her mother, she served as Auxiliary department president. “Sometimes people think only one of you can be active in an organization, which frustrates the heck out of us,” Sharon says. “We both believe in The American Legion, as a family, and we wouldn’t be as active as we are if we didn’t believe the other one had a place to serve.”

Legion is about and how easy it is to be part of our organization, which does so much good.”

Having spent most of his life in the high-pressure world of sales, Conatser knows how to make a pitch. For 21 years, as operations sergeant major for recruiting, he enlisted young men and women in the Illinois Army National Guard – “selling the military experience,” he calls it. After retiring in 1996, he went to work for The American Legion Department of Illinois, where Conatser created his dream job: membership director. In the position, he developed training programs and



Marty Conatser and his wife, Sharon, share a love for The American Legion family. She has served as the Auxiliary's national membership chairman and Illinois state president. Tom Strattman

The only activity rivaling the Legion for the Conatsers' affections is University of Illinois sports. A magnet on their refrigerator identifies the Fighting Illini season-ticket holders as diehard fans; down the hall an entire room is stuffed with memorabilia celebrating their favorite football and basketball teams, including Chief Illiniwek statues and plates, panoramic photos from memorable games, orange-and blue pillow shams and Christmas ornaments. A light bulb hanging from the ceiling shines inside an orange football helmet. Outside, orange flowers form an "I."

During basketball season, Conatser tunes in even when the Illini aren't playing. "I don't even have to know the teams," he says. "I just enjoy watching."

Hometown Boy. Driving through his hometown of Deland, about 20 miles west of Champaign, Conatser describes an upbringing that's as American as apple pie. With a population of about 450, the town has never really grown and never really shrunk, because it's a good place to live, he says. "It's what everybody wants, a place they can remember that hasn't changed a lot, that's still friendly."

Conatser's father worked as a farmer and carpenter, and his mother raised their five children while balancing occasional jobs. As a boy, he loved baseball, and in high school he played football for two years before taking a job making resistor coils.

After graduation, Conatser worked on a local family's farm while taking college classes. When the family sold their land, he decided to sign up for

Top Ten Things You Don't Know About Marty Conatser

- 10** His 26-year military career wasn't planned; he just enjoyed recruiting for the Illinois Army National Guard. Then one day he woke up and realized he'd put in 12 years. "At that point I figured I could do the next eight standing on my head," he says.
- 9** His wife, Sharon, feared he'd get them killed at a 1998 college basketball game – specifically, Indiana University vs. University of Illinois at Assembly Hall in Bloomington, Ind. Moments before IU Coach Bob Knight was ejected for berating referee Ted Valentine, Conatser – wearing blue and orange, and sitting as a guest in the heavy-donor section – stood up and yelled, "Throw the jerk out!"
- 8** He's not a coffee drinker. His preferred morning beverage is Diet Pepsi.
- 7** Every year, he and a close friend – Illinois Department Commander Myron Kirby – take the longest and most circuitous route they can find to the Legion's national convention. Along the way, they drop in on local posts.
- 6** He's a Chicago White Sox fan, because the team offers free admission to members of the U.S. military.
- 5** His favorite food is Italian. His least favorite? Chinese.
- 4** Twice a year, he travels north to Wisconsin to go snowmobiling. In 1977, a friend invited him, and he got hooked. "I don't give it up for anybody," he says.
- 3** He's a cancer survivor. Years ago, driving back from visiting his cancer-stricken brother in New Orleans, Conatser got a call confirming he too had it. He's now cancer-free, and he considers it the most difficult challenge he's ever faced.
- 2** He and Sharon are tailgating fanatics, and their University of Illinois football parties are legendary. For 11 o'clock games, they fix breakfast before and eat lunch afterward. For 1 o'clock games, it's lunch before and a snack later. Anywhere from six to 60 people show up.
- 1** He and his younger brother, Wayne, used to drag race. As the "C&C Boys," they drove several cars, including a '67 red and white Camaro, while competing on the Midwest circuit. They even got a mention in *Hot Rod* magazine.



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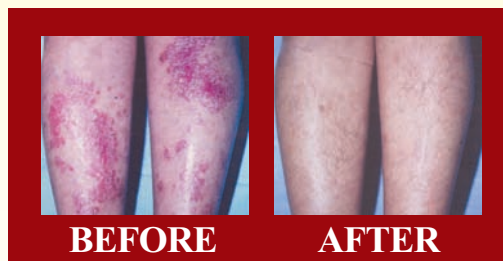
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the active-duty Army National Guard program, and in 1971 he attended basic and advanced infantry training at Fort Polk, La. He ended up loving the military, particularly the challenge of recruiting, and figured since he was happy with it he might as well make the Guard his career.

About the same time, Conatser began to get involved at American Legion Lincoln Post 102 in Deland. He'd been a member for years, but when he attended a post meeting to seek support for the local Little League, he got a whole lot more than new uniforms. "When I left that night, I was the post commander," he says.

Again, Conatser had stumbled upon an unintentional career course, this one in The American Legion. Since 1982, he's leapfrogged from one Legion leadership position to another, including district, division and department commander. Nationally, he has served on the Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee, and as chairman of the Membership & Post Activities Committee, as well as the Legislative Commission.

Along the way, Conatser has taken time to mentor and encourage younger Legionnaires. One of them is Chuck Zelinsky, a member of the National Public Relations Commission and past department historian for Illinois.

"When Marty was elected state commander, I was on the stage to hear his speech, and right then I knew I had more to give to the Legion, and I wanted to," he says. "Since then, I've become active in the organization. He's been my installing officer twice, when I was post commander and when I was county commander. He inspires me, so I look forward to his leadership this year as national commander."

Good Old Days. Ever the optimist, Conatser isn't one to lament for yesterday's American Legion. He'd rather talk about the bright future he sees ahead. "We'll always like to reminisce about what was," he says. "Well, I'm making my good old days today."

As for young Legionnaires and increasing their involvement, Conatser can only remember what it was like for himself, for many years a member but not all that active until later years.

"Many of us have forgotten that at 25 or 30 we didn't have much extra money or time," he says. "We were trying to raise our families. When we



Marty Conatser is a salesman for Worden-Martin Auto Group of Champaign, Ill. He says the dealership is a proud contributor to the Legion's American Legacy Scholarship Fund. Tom Strattman

get that young veteran, we need to realize that he's not going to be down at the post one night a week doing the work of The American Legion right now. We need to try to get him or her to come help us on one program a year and keep his membership up. There will come a time when he can be more active in the organization."

Some posts are already trying a more family-oriented outreach, with youth soccer, child care and Scout sponsorship acting as magnets.

"Instead of talking about what your membership does for you and for your fellow veteran, we're saying, 'Oh no, it costs \$4.50 more,'" he says, shaking his head. "That's not a six-pack of pop. It just doesn't mean anything. All the time I talk to people who say they don't know if they get anything out of it. And I ask them, 'Would you give \$25 a year to an organization dedicated to helping children and veterans?' Most of them say yeah, they'd donate \$25. That's your dues, folks. If you never step foot in an American Legion post, that's your dues."

"We're spending too much time on the cost of membership when we should be talking about the value of membership. We should be selling the fact that what we do is the right thing for America. We're selling the good things we do for other veterans and their families. People stood up and protected our benefits without us even knowing it, and now we're doing the same for the next generation of veterans. We have to let them know that's what we're doing. That's when we'll succeed." 🇺🇸

Matt Grills is an associate editor at The American Legion Magazine.

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Jason M.
Manhattan Beach, CA

A: Well Jason,

The verdict is in and I just happen to have the perfect answer to boost you and your confidence, while giving your wife the time of her life ... repeatedly!

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[VERBATIM]

"In this case, we thought it was a good idea to teach him what true service is like."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ron Friedman, on the court sentencing of counterfeit Vietnam War veteran Reggie Buddle, who received two years' probation and 500 hours of labor tending to graves at Tahoma National Cemetery in Washington.

Buddle posed as a U.S. Marine captain and military chaplain in 2005 and 2006.

"It's not something macho police officers want covering their biceps."

Bangkok Police Col. Pongpat Chayaphan, announcing that Thai officers must wear hot-pink armbands featuring "Hello Kitty" as a badge of shame if they violate department rules

"As the election campaign in America is heating up, we would not like American candidates to fight their elections and contest elections at our expense."

Pakistani Foreign Minister Khusheed Kasuri, on Sen. Barack Obama's comment that, if elected U.S. president, he might order strikes against terrorists hiding in the Islamic country

"Look, this isn't the 15th century. You can't go around the world and just plant flags and say, 'We're claiming this territory.'"

Canadian Foreign Minister Peter MacKay, waving away the suggestion of a threat to Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic after Russia planted a flag on the seabed beneath the North Pole

"Boom, boom, boom, and we were just dropping, dropping, dropping, dropping."

Jamie Winegar of Houston, whose car was crossing the Interstate 35 West bridge in Minneapolis when it collapsed Aug. 1, sending dozens of vehicles into the Mississippi River

"I would do anything in the world to quit smoking. I'm just so sick of it."

Jodi Perkins of Iowa, who called the Polk County Sheriff's Office in July to ask if she could be jailed for a few days to help her kick the habit

"They really have no idea where they are."

Rachel Stohl of the Center for Defense Information, on a government report revealing that the Pentagon lost track of 190,000 AK-47 assault rifles and pistols given to Iraqi security forces in 2004 and 2005

"I won't meddle any more than Arthur Sulzberger does."

Rupert Murdoch, new owner of *The Wall Street Journal*, referring to the liberal *New York Times*' publisher

"I don't want to get in the way. I want to do what I am asked to do and what I am needed to do."

Former President Bill Clinton, describing his possible role as first husband in an interview with ABC's "Nightline"

[INTERVIEW]

DROPPING THE BALL

Hall of Famer Dave Winfield offers remedies for a game he says is 'hurting.'

Dave Winfield represents American Legion Baseball at its best. In an era when the sport's literature consists of tabloid tomes like Jose Canseco's "Juiced" and David Wells' "Perfect I'm Not," the Major League Baseball Hall of Famer's book, "Dropping the Ball," stands apart.

Even though Winfield had legendary battles with Yankees owner George Steinbrenner and once played for Billy Martin, you will find no dirt in this literary work. The former American Legion Baseball star uses the book to tout his proposal, "The Baseball United Plan," because, Winfield says, "The game I love is hurting." Now a vice president of the San Diego Padres, he recently spoke with The American Legion Magazine.

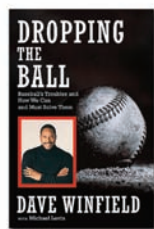


Tom Stratman

Q: What do you mean by "Baseball United"?

A: I call it a check-up and a prescription for our national pastime. There is a disconnect in the game. Under that disconnect, there are "three Cs." One is competition. One is cost. And one is continuity. This is why I titled the book "Dropping the Ball." Baseball, for a long time, was passed from father to son, generation to generation, seamlessly. It didn't cost anything. Now Parks and Recs don't have

budgets to support baseball, and other sports have come into that vacuum. When I grew up, baseball was huge – the primary sport in America. Now this isn't the case. People didn't think the Super Bowl would succeed. People didn't aspire to be an NBA player. College sports were



"Dropping the Ball: Baseball's Troubles and How We Can and Must Solve Them"

Dave Winfield
with Michael Levin
(Scribner) 211 pages

nowhere near as large as today. There were no such things as video games, and kids in America could go outside and play for hours at a time unsupervised. Society has changed.

A lot of places today don't even have baseball teams that are of primary importance or competitive, especially at public schools. So America is looking at two separate but unequal paths to playing baseball. If you grew up in an urban area with an under-funded Parks and Recreation department, you have little chance of playing good baseball. I offer suggestions, and that's what the book is about.

SEE WINFIELD, PAGE 60

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[STATEMENT]

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From a petition campaign launched by Families United for Our Troops and Their Mission, a coalition of Gold Star and Blue Star families, striving to reassure U.S. servicemembers fighting in the war on terror that America stands behind them

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[OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM]

Who's in

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Latvia
Lithuania
Macedonia
Moldova
Mongolia
Poland
Romania
Singapore
Slovakia
South Korea
Ukraine
United Kingdom



WINFIELD, FROM PAGE 58

Q: What would it take for baseball to regain its former prominence?

A: It may be the strength of an American Legion program or a Parks and Recs department. It may be the strength of a small businessman or a large corporation saying we are going to establish an area where we have fields designated for youth baseball, at each level, with consistency of coaching, moving to the next level. There are so many Latin American players. People don't know that academies have started 30 years ago in other countries, and they have really taken root. It's less expensive for Major League Baseball to develop talent there. In our minor league system, over 40 percent are foreign players. I am not saying it's bad or good. It's just what is happening.

I wrote a chapter on the last black Major Leaguer. In 10 years, if the trend lines stay the same, there will be one person left. How come African-American players aren't playing? Some say that maybe they just don't like the game anymore, but I was also looking at it from a business standpoint. African-Americans have the second most spending power in America, over \$700 billion.

Q: You've always been anti-drug. What effect has Barry Bonds – his home-run record and allegations of steroid abuse – had on the game?

A: The public is conflicted about the top players. People are conflicted about, "Should I support them? Should I like them? Do I want my kids to be like them?" That's the image people have of baseball and our top players. When we look back 10 years from now, we will look at 1996 to 2006 as an era that's suspect. Some argue that the drugs weren't illegal in the sport at the time. I say, "Hey, the drugs were illegal in America. If you were transporting, selling or using them, you can go to jail. So they were illegal. That's not a defense."

Q: How did American Legion Baseball contribute to your development as a young man and as a player?

A: It was a very positive experience for me. It was a proud time for our community, too, because we had some pretty good teams and gained some recognition. It was just part of the youth baseball experience that brought our community close together – the families, the kids, the experiences of growing up. It was valuable. I had good coaching and we had good teams. The American Legion tournaments contributed to me getting the college scholarships and being drafted by Major League Baseball.

Interview: John Raughter



The Dave Winfield File

Born: 1951, St. Paul, Minn.

Drafted: First round, San Diego Padres, 1973

Height: 6-foot-6

Weight: 220

Seasons played: 22

Positions: Outfield, first base, third base, designated hitter

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Home runs: 465

Hall of Fame: Inducted 2001

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[OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM]



Marty Conatser, left, at the time the leading candidate for national commander of The American Legion, joined representatives of other veterans organizations and DoD escorts in an August tour of Baghdad and the Iraq war theater, where they saw signs of progress.

Conatser: 'Surge is working'

After a three-day visit to Iraq, Martin "Marty" Conatser of Champaign, Ill., had a blunt message for Congress: "The troops are doing their jobs. Now do your jobs and support them. I met with Gen. (David) Petraeus. All the troops I talked to respect and believe in him. The Senate confirmed Gen. Petraeus, and now Congress must allow him to complete his mission to build a safer, stable Iraq that will not threaten its neighbors or the United States.

"The media dwell on the negative and report very little on the considerable successes. Everything I saw points to the fact that the surge is working."

At the time of the visit, Conatser was the leading candidate to become national commander of The American Legion. He said the experience gave him unforgettable insight, especially regarding the easing of tension between religious groups. "I met an impressive Iraqi general who was Shia and commanding many Sunnis," Conatser said. "It didn't seem to be much of an issue to them, but it just demonstrates how the terrorists are able to stir things up among the masses."

Conatser, a retired sergeant major in the Illinois National Guard, said morale was high. "Naturally most would rather be home, and tour extensions can be demoralizing," he said. "But I didn't meet anyone who said the United States should abandon the mission there."

[THE FLAG]

States seek ways to keep Old Glory made in America

Minnesota has passed a measure to ensure that all American flags sold in the state are made in America. Penalties for selling foreign-made flags include 90 days in jail and up to \$1,000 in fines.

"The biggest honor that you can give the flag is that it be made by American

workers in the United States of America," Democratic State Rep. Tom Rukavina said.

Minnesota is not alone. The state of Arizona is making sure that schools and colleges are outfitted with American flags made in the United States. Tennessee has a law on the books requiring that any American flag purchased with state funds be made in America. Plus, similar bills are reportedly under consideration in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

According to the Flag Manufacturers Association of America, \$5.3 million worth of American flags were imported in 2006. China accounted for \$5 million of that business. That's dramatically down from the \$51.7 million worth of American flags that flowed into the country in 2001, \$29.7 million from China.

Made outside America

YEAR	VALUE OF IMPORTED U.S. FLAGS
2006	\$5.3 million
2005	\$5.5 million
2004	\$5.2 million
2003	\$6 million
2002	\$7.9 million
2001	\$51.7 million

www.fmaa-usa.com/resources_links/usflag_statistics.php

[FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

Bridge over the river Oxus

Aided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Afghanistan and Tajikistan are linked for the first time in history by a bridge spanning the Oxus River. Construction of the 2,200-foot structure began in 2003. U.S. officials believe the \$43 million project will open new trade opportunities for Tajiks, Afghans and Pakistanis. "This is going to be a booming place," Col. Christopher Toomey told *Stars and Stripes*. Toomey leads the Corps of Engineers' Afghanistan Engineer District. "This is going to be like an interstate intersection in the United States."

The bridge includes one traffic lane for each direction and an additional path for bicycle and foot traffic. The Corps expects 1,000 cars to cross the border a day.



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American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championship results

Colorado Springs,
Aug. 9-11

Precision

1 Dempster

Christenson,
Sioux Falls, S.D., 2,462.2

2 Kyle Smith,

DuBois, Pa., 2,459.9

3 Abigail Stanic,

Wadsworth, Ohio,
2,452.8

4 Joseph Walkowicz,

Nashville, Tenn., 2,457.0

5 Matthew Pueppke,

Amenia, N.D., 2,448.0

Sporter

1 Noel Maxwell,

Bowling Green, Ky.,
2,309.7

2 Marco Aguayo,

McAllen, Texas, 2,308.3

3 Kaitlyn Martin,

Peralta, N.M., 2,288.5

4 Joe Montanez,

Pharr-San Juan-Alamo
High School, Texas,
2,272.7

5 Kurt Hakola,

Port Crane, N.Y., 2,263.4

[SHOOTING SPORTS]

Kentucky teen youngest to take national title

A 13-year-old girl from Bowling Green, Ky., was cool under pressure, narrowly winning the final shoot-off to become the youngest-ever first-place winner at the 17th Annual American Legion Junior Air Rifle National Championship at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Noel Maxwell's performance Aug. 9-11 – scoring 2,309.7 out of a possible 2,509 – brought home the crown by less than one point in the Sporter competition. She is a member of the Corvette City Shooting Team, sponsored by Post 23.

Seventeen-year-old Dempster Christenson of Sioux Falls, S.D., won the overall Precision championship with a score of 2,462.2 out of a possible 2,509. Christenson is a member of the Humboldt Sharpshooters, sponsored by William H. Crippen Post 62.

One national record fell during this year's competition. Kurt Hakola set the new Sporter final shoot-off record of 96.4 out of a possible 109, eclipsing the 2004 mark of 93.7. Hakola also finished fifth overall in the Sporter



A steady performance in the final shoot-off made Noel Maxwell, 13, the youngest-ever Sporter champ. Sean Crosier

category. The Port Crane, N.Y., native competes for the Binghamton Rifle Club, sponsored by Post 1845.

Tournament staff selected New Mexico shooter Kaitlyn Martin to receive the annual Francis M. Redington Sportsmanship award, established in May 2005 in memory of a longtime tournament staff member who passed away in 2003.

Observing at nationals this year was Launi Meili, 1992 Olympic Gold medalist in rifle. Meili got her start in a junior shooting program sponsored by an American Legion post in Cheney, Wash. She is now the rifle coach for the U.S. Air Force Academy.

[LEGISLATIVE]

Legion seeks veteran parks discounts

Citing a long and storied association between the military and the National Parks Service, The American Legion recently testified in support of a Senate bill to reduce the price of passes to access federal recreation lands. "America's national parks are one of the nation's most precious treasures," American Legion Legislative Commission Assistant Director Dean Stoline told a Senate subcommittee. "They represent the vastness, biodiversity, beauty and strength of this great land."

"America asks her young people to serve in the armed forces to guard and defend freedom and its way of life. Their selfless service provides millions of their fellow citizens the

opportunity to pursue their recreational endeavors in peace and safety in our nation's parks.

"The American Legion fully supports a reduced fee as a fitting honor for these veterans who selflessly risked life and limb, not only in defense of the Constitution, but for the very land in which we live," Stoline said.

In addition to a reduced annual fee of \$10, the Legion recommended that the proposed Veterans Eagle Parks Pass include a 50-percent discount on federal use fees charged for facilities and services such as camping, swimming, parking, boat launching and specialized interpretive services.



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Nationwide Coverage††	Yes	Yes
Trial Period	30 days	30 days

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[MEMBERSHIP]

"I want to talk about the value of membership, not just the cost of membership – the good things being a member of The American Legion does for you. We all like to belong to organizations that are winners, and that's what The American Legion is. This year shows it. We're going to show growth again this year for the first time in a couple years, and we have a lot to be proud of in our programs and ideals. But it's our job, as leaders, to tell the positives, to tell the success stories. And it's our job and our attitude that will make a difference in The American Legion. We need to make sure that we understand the good things The American Legion is doing. Many of our members don't know ... about the good things happening around The American Legion throughout different departments and in different programs. Listen to the good ideas. Tell each other what's going well in your department. When you hear a problem, talk about what you're doing to solve that problem."

Marty Conatser, addressing Legionnaires gathered for a national membership workshop in Indianapolis in August. Conatser, at the time the leading candidate for national commander of The American Legion, spoke to the group via remote video from Baghdad.

Gulf War, Somalia veterans guide growth in Oklahoma

Michael Taylor, David Kellerman and Chris Harding – all in their 30s – are fueling membership growth and energizing programs by reaching out to veterans of all age groups in The American Legion Department of Oklahoma. All three attribute their age and war era as a benefit to a year when the department grew by 1,000 members overall, including 750 new Legionnaires from the National Guard ranks. "Our ages are right in the middle," says Harding, department service officer. "I can communicate and identify with Vietnam, Korea and World War II veterans, and with new veterans returning right now."

"Oklahoma is one of the most deployed Guard states in the war," says Department Adjutant David Kellerman, a Somalia combat veteran. "The National Guard units in the state invite us to all their welcome-home ceremonies, and we go. We give briefings at Guard units on our programs. Posts around the state have active Reconnect programs. Several posts meet in National Guard armories. The Guard unit in Granite runs the Shooting Sports program there. These people are looking for Legion programs and activities that involve their whole families."

The department also attends


Michael Taylor

Age: 38

Office: Department commander

Military: U.S. Air Force, weather specialist, Desert Storm, 1991-93

Chris Harding

Age: 36

Office: Department service officer

Military: U.S. Marine Corps, reconnaissance, Desert Storm-Somalia, 1989-93

David Kellerman

Age: 36

Office: Department adjutant

Military: U.S. Marine Corps, infantry, Desert Storm-Somalia, 1990-94

welcome-home activities at Fort Sill and Tinker, Altus and Vance Air Force bases. Active-duty personnel get dues discounts.

The three are pleased with growth in the state Oratorical competition, Boys State and an American Legion Baseball program whose team count grew from 28 to 65 last year. "We are definitely reaching this new generation, this new era," Harding says. "We have to keep

showing them what The American Legion can do for them and for their families."

"It comes one veteran at a time," Taylor says. "When I am driving a vehicle with The American Legion emblem on it, a lot of times people pull up to me and ask why they should belong. I hand them the 'Why I Should Belong' brochure, which I carry with me all the time. That's where it all starts."

AS HEARD ON PAUL HARVEY NEWS

New advanced portable heater can cut your heating bill up to 50%**Heats a large room in minutes with even heat wall to wall and floor to ceiling****Does not get hot, cannot start a fire and will not reduce humidity or oxygen****Never be cold again**

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A major cause of residential fires in the United States is portable heaters. But the EdenPURE® cannot cause a fire. That is because the quartz infrared heating element never gets to a temperature that can ignite anything.

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The advanced space-age EdenPURE® Quartz Infrared Portable Heater also heats the room evenly, wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling. And, as you know, portable heaters only heat an area a few feet around the heater.

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Q. What is the origin of this amazing heating element in the EdenPURE®?

A. This advanced heating element was discovered accidentally by a man named John Jones.

Q. What advantages does infrared quartz tube heating source have over other heating source products?

A. John Jones designed his heating source around the three most important consumer benefits: economy, comfort, and safety.

In the EdenPURE® system, electricity is used to generate infrared light which, in turn, creates a



Cannot start a fire; a child or animal can touch or sit on it without harm



very safe heat.

After a great deal of research and development, very efficient infrared heat chambers were developed that utilize three unique patented solid copper heat exchangers in one EdenPURE® heater.

Q. How can a person cut their heating bill by up to 50% with the EdenPURE®?

A. The EdenPURE® will heat a room in minutes. Therefore, you can turn the heat down in your house to as low as 50 degrees, but the room you are occupying, which has the EdenPURE®, will be warm and comfortable. The EdenPURE® is portable. When you move to another room, it will quickly heat that room also. This can drastically cut heating bills, in some instances, by up to 50%.

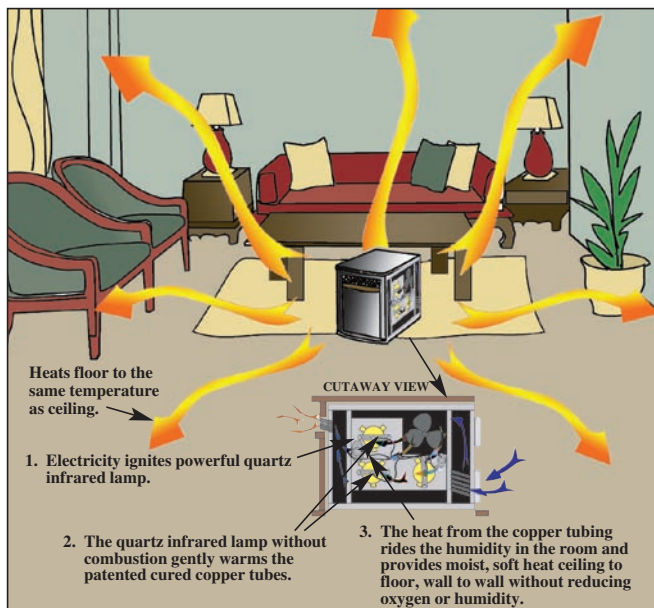
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in 2 models. Model 500 heats a room up to 300 square feet and Model 1000 heats a room up to 1,000 square feet.

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The price of the EdenPURE® Model 500 is \$372 plus \$17 shipping for a total of \$389 delivered. The Model 1000 is \$472 plus \$27 shipping and handling for a total of \$499 delivered. People reading this publication get a \$75 discount with this coupon and pay only \$297 delivered for the Model 500 and \$397 delivered for the Model 1000 if you order within 10 days. The EdenPURE® comes in the decorator color of black with burled wood accent which goes with any decor. There is a strict limit of 3 units at the discount price - no exceptions please.

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[HISTORY]

THE GREAT JIM THORPE

One of history's most celebrated athletes occupies a little-known place in war history.

The Merchant Marine seamen onboard the USS *Southwest Victory* were not sure what to make of him. In his mid-50s, the massive Native American man with a bad heart kept to himself as the freighter sailed through submarine-infested waters to off-load munitions in India. At night, when they tied up, high-ranking brass would come, take the man away and return with him around dawn the next day.

The others did not realize they were in the company of Jim Thorpe, regarded as one of the greatest athletes who ever lived. Thorpe was among 215,000 Merchant Marines who faced deadly challenges delivering badly needed cargo during World War II.

The Oklahoma-born son of a rural farm family was a natural athlete. He blew away the competition in the 1912 Olympic decathlon and pentathlon, but his medals were later forfeited due to two seasons of semi-professional baseball he had played earlier. After the Olympics, he became recognized as the world's greatest athlete. He played professional baseball and helped create a pro football association that later evolved into today's National Football League. In a 1912 game, the Carlisle phenomenon broke off a 90-yard touchdown run against Army that was called back due to a penalty. On the next play, he went 95 yards to the end zone, and among those who tried to stop him was Dwight Eisenhower, future president, general and supreme allied commander in Europe. Ike injured a knee on Thorpe's run and was soon done with football. Thorpe continued playing until he was 45 years old.

Life after sports proved difficult for Thorpe, who during the Depression found himself laboring for 30 cents an hour and supporting children from two failed marriages. He sold the rights to his life story to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for \$1,500 while painting gas stations and trucks in the Los Angeles area. Universal Studios, MGM and Warner gave him bit parts in sports and Western films. Between movie deals, he worked as a guard at a Ford plant and later as supervisor of recreation for Chicago parks.

He suffered his first heart attack in 1943. Having been turned down in earlier efforts to join the U.S. Armed Forces, he was determined to get into World War II. The Merchant Marine was his avenue to serve.

After World War II, Thorpe was living in a small trailer court in Lomita, Calif., when a massive heart attack took his life.

"On the football field, there was no one like him in the world," said Eisenhower, who lobbied for a state-funded \$25,000 memorial to Thorpe in Shawnee, Okla., a measure that was later vetoed. The town of Mauch Chunk, Pa., later renamed itself Jim Thorpe, Pa., where the great athlete and World War II Merchant Marine was eventually laid to rest.



— Mike Coppock

What would Thorpe have made?

Sports Illustrated recently released rankings of the top money-making athletes in the United States, "The Fortunate 50." Golf superstar Tiger Woods earned more in endorsements, salary and winnings than the next two athletes combined.

- 1. PGA star Tiger Woods**
\$111.9 million
- 2. Boxer Oscar De La Hoya**
\$55 million
- 3. PGA star Phil Mickelson**
\$51.2 million
- 4. NBA star Shaquille O'Neal**
\$35 million
- 5. NBA star Kobe Bryant**
\$33.7 million
- 6. NBA star LeBron James**
\$30.8 million
- 7. NBA star Kevin Garnett**
\$29 million
- 8. MLB star Derek Jeter**
\$29 million
- 9. MLB star Alex Rodriguez**
\$28 million
- 10. NASCAR driver Dale Earnhart Jr.**
\$27.1 million

[INTERNAL AFFAIRS]

Once again, up-and-coming leaders in the world's largest veterans service organization will travel to Indianapolis in early November for a week of training, program education and camaraderie. Those attending must be Legion members with at least two years of membership whose war-era eligibility period is either Panama, Grenada, Gulf War or after (earlier eras are considered on a space-available basis). Information about Legion College 2008 will soon be available at department headquarters.

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[LIVING WELL]

Comfort, dignity, respect

VA has a well-rounded program for veterans nearing life's end.

BY DR. JOEL KUPERSMITH

More than a quarter of Americans who die each year are veterans. So it's fitting that VA, with its reputation for top-notch medical care, is recognized as a leader in end-of-life care.

When VA established its first hospice units in the 1970s, these facilities were at the forefront of a nationwide movement aimed at transforming care for dying people. The 25-bed unit at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center has continued to play an especially strong role in defining state-of-the-art hospice care. It was cited in 2001 for excellence by the American Hospital Association and today serves as the hub of VA's network of hospice and palliative care fellowship training programs.

The model of care in Palo Alto is similar to that of other VA hospice units. The staff includes physicians, nurses, a social worker, a chaplain and even a massage therapist. This professional team is complemented by more than two dozen compassionate volunteers, some of whom are called in to stay with dying patients who have no family or friends nearby.

The focus in hospice care is ensuring the highest possible quality of life – and the highest level of comfort and dignity – in patients' final weeks. This includes relief from pain and attention to the spiritual, emotional and psychological needs of patients and their families. At the Bay Pines VA Medical Center in Florida, for example, families – including young children and pets – are welcome anytime. Nurses there also incorporate holistic therapies such as whirlpool, healing touch and aromatherapy in patients' care.

Hospice care is provided to patients with life expectancy of less than six months who have chosen to forgo more aggressive treatments. Palliative care, a more general term, refers to any care in which the goal is comfort rather than cure.

Every veteran enrolled in VA's health-care system is entitled to palliative or hospice care, should the need arise. Not every VA hospital has a hospice unit, so in many cases VA contracts with certified, licensed services that provide that care. VA works closely with these services to ensure quality care is delivered.

Every VA site has a palliative care team consisting of, at minimum, a physician, nurse, social worker, chaplain and administrator with special training in end-of-life care. The teams consult with primary-care doctors on pain management and other issues, and work to promote awareness and knowledge of palliative-care concepts.

Researchers at VA's Durham, N.C.-based Center for Palliative Care have developed better ways for clinicians to evaluate quality of life for patients with serious illness and designed workshops for oncologists to help them communicate more effectively about end-stage treatment options. Along similar lines, researchers at VA's Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion in Philadelphia have produced guidelines for physicians to talk about hospice care with patients and families.

Other VA research has focused on ensuring that veterans are well-educated about advance directives and other important aspects of planning for end-of-life care. Still other studies are exploring how the needs and preferences of veterans may differ from those of non-veterans at the end of life.

Joel Kupersmith, M.D., is chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.

This article is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

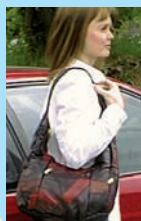


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[VETERANS AFFAIRS]

A NEW PROSTHETIC ANKLE-FOOT

is now available to veterans who have had lower-leg amputations, one that matches their natural ease of motion. Through VA-funded research, the Center for Restorative and Regenerative Medicine – a partnership between the Providence VA Medical Center in Rhode Island, Brown University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology – developed the new prosthesis. The new prosthetic is the first in a new family of artificial limbs that will replicate natural motion by propelling people forward using tendon-like springs powered by an electric motor.

VA AND FORT BRAGG have opened

a newly expanded facility at the post's Soldier Support Center to provide easier access to VA benefits for soldiers stationed at Fort Bragg, particularly programs for transitioning servicemembers.

A FISHER HOUSE has opened in

Tampa, Fla. Families of injured U.S. military men and women recuperating at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa now have the benefit of free lodging as they participate in the care and recovery of loved ones. At 16,000 square feet, the Tampa Fisher House is among the largest in the nation.

A NEW PARTNERSHIP connects the

VA health-care system with four of the nation's finest nursing schools. VA selected nursing schools in Florida, California, Utah and Connecticut for special partnerships with local VA health-care facilities to be part of a new VA Nursing Academy. The first four nursing schools selected to take part in the new program are the University of Florida in Gainesville, San Diego State University, the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, and Fairfield University in Connecticut. They were selected from among 42 applicants.

PLANS FOR A NEW VA CLINIC ON

GUAM were recently announced. The 6,000-square-foot, \$5.4 million facility will be built alongside the island's naval hospital. The new clinic is scheduled to open in summer 2009. About 9,000 veterans live on Guam.

[LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION]

'VERY PROUD, VERY HONORED'

Army's Freedom Team Salute program honors millionth veteran, a Legionnaire.

When Bill Beck returned after 14 months in Vietnam in 1966, the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment M60 machine gunner who fought in the bloody Ia Drang Valley felt isolated. On July 4, 2007, he felt connected and



Legionnaire Bill Beck is the millionth patriot recognized by Freedom Team Salute. James V. Carroll

honored. That's when he became the millionth veteran officially recognized by the U.S. Army's Freedom Team Salute, an American Legion partner program that extends the military's gratitude to those who support soldiers and veterans.

A member of American Legion Post 109 in Mechanicsburg, Pa., Beck was honored in a ceremony at

Bustleton Memorial Post 810 in Philadelphia. Each recipient of the award receives an official Army lapel pin mounted on a card, an official Army decal, and a letter of thanks and certificate of appreciation signed by both the Army secretary and chief of staff.

Since he returned from Vietnam, Beck has grown increasingly aware of his fellow veterans and the importance of those relationships. "I didn't share a lot with my family and friends when I came back," he says. "I just didn't feel comfortable sharing either the good times or the bad times. As veterans began to filter back from the war, I found people I could share my feelings with. It takes awhile to be able to do that."

Beck describes the Freedom Team Salute recognition as "a great honor, and I'm very proud. I have my (certificate of appreciation) hanging in my office. It's just a good feeling." Following the presentation – which was co-hosted by Philadelphia's Walter L. Mason Federal Post 152 – Beck offered similar Freedom Team Salute honors to veterans from World War II, the Korean War, Operation Desert Shield and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Nearly 41,000 Pennsylvania veterans have been honored through the program. Nomination information is available online.

www.freedomteamsalute.com

POST 74, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. Commander A.B. Brown was searching for a meaningful way to support Virginia National Guardsmen soon to be deployed to Iraq. When he visited the local armory and described what he considered a "far-reaching" idea, one that could help save lives, a simple strap was placed on the desk in front of him. It was a single-point sling developed by Thunderbear Tactical, a local military gear company. Typical rifle slings have three points of contact that can make maneuvering the rifle in the heat of combat cumbersome and dangerous. Once Thunderbear Tactical demonstrated the ease of the sling to the members of Post 74, the post voted unanimously to donate one each to area Guardsmen. Nearly 200 slings were delivered personally with the message, "The American Legion supports you."

"It could not have happened without a good product and a good company to partner with, but it's important for posts to be aware of the needs in their area and be willing to meet those needs," Brown says.

[GALLERY]

RIDE OF PRIDE



Transportation giant Schneider National, Inc., sends a message of support for veterans, MIAs and POWs across the highways of America, having added the Ride of Pride VI truck to its nationwide fleet. Lowell Wilderman, a retired Navy veteran who has driven for Schneider for 17 years, captains the special vehicle, which features images of a bald eagle, an American flag, a POW-MIA logo and military campaign ribbons from World War I to today's global war on terrorism.

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[EDUCATION]

Above and beyond the GI Bill

USA Today recently reported on state efforts to augment the GI Bill. Since its 1944 American Legion-born enactment, the GI Bill has been sweetened by nearly every state. Here are just a few samples:

Alabama Tuition waived for spouses and children of National Guard members called to active duty in Iraq

Colorado Colorado-stationed members of the armed forces, with dependents, eligible for in-state tuition

Connecticut Tuition for veterans waived since 1974

Georgia Scholarship available for Guardsmen and reservists who, as of May 3, 2003, served in combat

Illinois Free state-school tuition for veterans

Kansas Scholarships for Kansans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan at least 90 days after 9/11

Kentucky Tuition waivers for eligible children and spouses of disabled and deceased servicemembers

Maryland Scholarships for veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan since 9/11

Michigan Grants for children of veterans who are killed, missing in action or permanently disabled

Nebraska Tuition waivers for KIA dependents

Nevada Free tuition at state universities and colleges for Nevada Guard

New Jersey Tuition-free credits for Guard and dependents

North Dakota Tuition waived for dependents of deceased veterans

Washington Tuition and fees waived for dependents of combat veterans who are totally disabled, reported missing or killed in combat

Wisconsin Tuition waived for veterans



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[ECONOMICS]

Measure would even GI Bill playing field

The American Legion supports legislation to allow members of the Guard and reserve to earn college credits while mobilized, just as active-duty troops do, and use them after they leave the military, Economics Division Assistant Director Ronald Chamrin recently told the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs. About 40 percent of troops in Iraq are Guardsmen or reservists. Active-duty personnel have 10 years after separation to use GI Bill education benefits. Guardsmen and reservists called to active duty forfeit those benefits once they leave the service. The American Legion supports S. 644, "Total Force Educational Assistance Enhancement Act and Integration Act of 2007," which aims to reduce inequities between reserve and their active-duty components.

[MEMORIAM]

A commanding presence: PNC John M. Carey passes

American Legion Past National Commander John M. "Jack" Carey passed away Aug. 4 at the age of 82. His was a life richly lived, illustrative of the "greatest generation" of Americans who came home from World War II to stand tall for their country in their communities.

HIS LEGION LEGACY: As national commander, 1978-1979, Carey fought for veterans-preference hiring laws, including a major Supreme Court victory upholding their constitutionality. He also lobbied to provide pensions for World War I veterans; served 27 years as

adjutant of Post 413 in Grand Blanc, Mich., and as Department of Michigan commander, 1958-1959; and filled numerous national committee and commission seats, 1962-1984, including chairmanships of the National Overseas Graves Decoration Trust and the National Internal Affairs Commission.

HIS MILITARY COMMITMENT: Carey passed up a college deferment and asked to have his draft number moved up so he could fight in World War II. Sworn into the Army on March 23, 1943, he fought in the Pacific theater as a member of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's engineering group and was among the first U.S. soldiers to enter Tokyo.

AFTER THE WAR: Carey went back to Central Michigan University, where he met and married his wife, Millie. He graduated in 1950, went to work and started a family. He taught high-school accounting and coached football, basketball and baseball. He later worked for General Motors.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Elected mayor of Grand Blanc in 1969, Carey served four terms before taking a temporary leave of absence to become national commander of The American Legion. He returned to the mayor's office, from 1981 to 1984.

LATER IN LIFE: Carey and his wife, Millie, retired and moved to Florida, where, says fellow PNC John "Jake" Comer, "Jack made sure all of the houses always had U.S. Flags in front of them. If someone didn't have a flag, Jack would order it for him."

HOW HE IS REMEMBERED BY 2004-2005 PNC THOMAS CADMUS, ALSO OF MICHIGAN: "When I was campaigning for national commander, he and Millie went out of their way to help me campaign. He came up from Florida, where he was living at the time, just to help me. He did that throughout my campaign. He was a great guy and always willing to listen. He was truly a gentleman's gentleman. I miss him already."

CONDOLENCES: The Carey Family, 182 Old Mill Drive, Plant City, FL 33565-8794



[TROOP SUPPORT]

Phone cards bound for Landstuhl

An American Legion initiative to provide comfort items for U.S. military personnel recovering at the military medical center in Landstuhl, Germany, led to the purchase of \$25,000 worth of telephone

calling cards late last summer. Immediate Past National Commander Paul A. Morin

authorized the purchase after "Operation Landstuhl" reached the halfway point of its \$50,000 goal. Morin, along with top leaders of the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion, toured the facility last summer and decided to augment the world-class care delivered there with money to buy items to make the patients more comfortable.

Visit www.legion.org to make a credit-card donation or mail a contribution to Operation Landstuhl, c/o The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055.



[CAREERS]

OCTOBER JOB FAIR CALENDAR

American Legion partners RecruitMilitary, LLC, and Military.com are coordinating eight veteran career fairs this month.

MILITARY.COM

Register for a Military.com event online.

www.military.com

Click on "Career Fairs."

OCT. 18 San Antonio

OCT. 29 Las Vegas

OCT. 30 Austin-Fort Worth

RECRUITMILITARY

Register for a RecruitMilitary, LLC, career fair online.

www.recruitmilitary.com

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OCT. 25 San Francisco

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once a night. What a relief. *Joseph Whittaker, Sewell, NJ* ● Doctor said keep on taking the tea Prostate drugs did not help. *Leonard Pearcey, Wassiss, NB* ● I cancelled my prostate surgery! Get up just once a night now. Prostate Tea really works. I'm so happy not to face the torment of prostate surgery. *Albert E. Blain, 74, Schumacher, ON* ● Even after TURP prostate surgery and microwave therapy had to get up many times a night. Down to 1-2 times. Tea is 100% better. *Robert G. Stocker, Eustis, FL* ● After 1st year drinking the tea my PSA went down to 4.5; after 2nd year to 2.9; after 3rd year to 2.3. I highly recommend the tea. A real life saver. *Thomas M. Thurston, Forsyth, GA* ● I'm Truly amazed and relieved. I no longer get up during the night. Can sleep 10 hours. I'm also surprised that my sex life improved. Suffered for 10 years. This tea is incredible. I enjoy drinking it. Men with a "pride issue" should try it. It's difficult to express how delighted I am. *Clarence A. Rehrg, 58, Allentown, PA* ● Biggest change in my life a full night's sleep! Had relief in 4 days. Wake up refreshed. Before had to get up many times. Had no sex for 2 years. Now I'm back to my own self again and my wife loves it. Thank you for a great product. The tea is better than the many things I tried including drugs. *Edward Powers, Port Orange, FL*

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incontinence. Many can avoid surgery. True Testimonials: ● 15 years of bladder & kidney infections gone in 1 week. Symptoms lessened 1st day. Strongest antibiotics didn't do anything. *Arlene Baswell, Palmetto, FL* ● I was so thrilled to be able to avoid being embarrassed day and night. I'm able now to exercise and work feeling care free. *Edith Netsky, 75, Melrose Park, PA* ● A friend recommended the tea after she had surgery to shore up the bladder and was still having urgency and leakage. It also worked for me! *Anne Watham, 72, Whitby ON* ● Went from doctor to specialist Had surgery. After I started the Bladder Control tea had no more UT infections. I love it. *Cheri Broadway, 45, Lake Hamilton, FL* ● Bladder Tea brought great improvement in 3rd month. Was considering surgery. Thanks for your help. *Estelle Scoggins, 65, Broomfield, CO* ● Stop needless suffering and embarrassments. Large box 120g \$19.95 each

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How to Submit a Reunion

The *American Legion Magazine* publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, *The American Legion Magazine* will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055,

Indianapolis, IN 46206, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to *The American Legion Magazine*, Attn: **Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE/ARMY AIR FORCES

Enlisted Pilots Classes 42C-43C (Wright-Patterson AFB), Dayton, OH, 10/25-28, Ed Wenglar, (361) 872-2189, edwenglar@laward.net

ARMY

3rd Admin Co 3rd Inf Div (Wurzburg, Germany, 1966-1969), Nashville, TN, 10/12-14, Gerald Campos, (410) 519-4369, gsdcampos@comcast.net; **517th Parachute Rgt Cbt Team (PRCT)**, Kissimmee, FL, 1/21-24, Donna Hillard, (407) 808-1110; **585th Eng Co (Vietnam)**, Kissimmee, FL, 2/22-24, Tom Garney, (480) 982-7114, dino585@msn.com; **USAREUR G-2**, Heidelberg, Germany, 5/15, Lee McCaslin, (205) 655-9446, lmccaslin1@charter.net

JOINT

China/Burma/India Vets Assn, Kissimmee, FL, 10/17-21, Jack Frost, (941) 753-2729; **Supreme HQ Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAFF) (WWII)**, New Orleans, 10/12-14, Jackie Voelkl, (949) 552-5246, sarge1stclcs@aol.com

NAVY

57th Seabees, Greenville, SC, 10/24-26, Robert Martin, (970) 356-1054, hicountryinsuran@qwest.net; **All Seabees**, Hampton, VA, 2/22-24, Bruce MacDougall, (804) 608-1356, seabeemac40@comcast.net; **Armed Guard (WWII)**, Fredericksburg, TX, 3/6-8, John Shirley, (512) 671-3464; **Cowell DD 547 (All Crews)**, Greenville, SC, 3/26-30, L.D. Salley, (864) 268-3365, lsalley2@bellsouth.net; **Independence CVA 62**, Memphis, TN, 10/3-7, Dan Nachtsheim, dan@nni.com; **Minesweeper Ocean Assn (NMSOA)**, Corpus Christi, TX, 10/11-14, Gene Hair, (972) 658-8789, mso465@yahoo.com; **Princeton LPH 5 Mar Air Dept (1959-1964)**, Branson, MO, 10/17-21, Larry Clay, larryclay211@peoplepc.com; **Stump DD 978**, Mobile, AL, 2/2, Rich Maurer, (334) 821-5009, richardmaurer@charter.net; **Tattnall DDG 19 (1965-1968)**, Deland, FL, 2/19-25, Dick Harmon, (386) 235-8723, dharmonlpga@aol.com; **VS-31 (1960-1970)**, Cruise, Galveston, TX, Feb, Carroll Towell, (800) 530-7643, junetowell@yahoo.com

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Post 157, FL: Peter Nepa
Post 219, FL: Robert W. Imel, Ernest L. Morris, William J. Walker
Post 96, MI: Joseph Banas
Post 158, MO: Albert Beussink, Vincent Schwartz
Post 78, TN: Milton D. Jones, Lewis C. Sullivan
Post 170, WI: Francis Stude

IN SEARCH OF

1st Cav Div (Camp Schimmelpfennig, Sendai, Japan, 1954-1955) & 9th Corp HQ (Camp Sendai, Sendai, Japan, 1954-1955), G.L. Christensen, (316) 282-0491
3rd TAB 25th Arty (Fort Chaffee, AR & Fort Sill, OK, 1963-1966), Charles J. Bukovec, (440) 986-8687
11th Air Assault Div HQ Co ADM Unit (Fort Benning, GA, Feb-June 1964), Shirley Blackwell, (620) 947-3909, shirley-minns@yahoo.com
38th Air Def Arty (Korea, 1960-1982), William Kenney, (617) 894-8190, hawkvets@gmail.com
49th Air Trans Sqdn (Hickam Field, Pacific Div, 1952-1954), Brian Smith, (443) 550-3359, jmcbsm@comcast.net
87th Inf Div 386th Rgt 1st Bn A Co, Sue Banks, (727) 381-5363
115th MI Grp (Presidio, San Francisco, 1972-1974), Bill Ennis, enniswb@epix.net
188th Co (Bainbridge NTC, May-Aug 1953), Al Bailey, (609) 294-9836, awb674@aol.com
335th Trans Co (DS) (Dong Ba Thin, Vietnam, 1965-1966), Don Matejcek, (507) 451-8888, scubagramps1961@yahoo.com
345th Bomb Class (San Angelo Army Air Field, Sept 1945), Harold Thomas, (217) 784-5200, hvthomas@sbcglobal.net
666th ACWRON (Mill Valley, CA, 1957-1958), Dale Place, (512) 260-1645, dale.place@sbcglobal.net
667th, 932nd, 933rd & 934th Iceland Radar Sites, William Chick, (803) 932-9596, littlechick@msn.com
716th MP Bn (Fort Dix, NJ, 1961-1963), Billy Hallmark, (936) 258-2020

981st Eng Const Bn (Camp Pickett, VA, 1951-1952), Clarence J. Schleicher Jr., (630) 553-5992, cjas630@aol.com
1110th Air Support Grp "Open Skies" (1955-1956), Gordon R. Merkel, (850) 871-6349, gplan918@msn.com
3345th AF Hosp (Chanute, AFB, IL, 1953-1957), Darlene Nelson, P.O. Box 111, Hanska, MN 56041, (507) 439-6302
4444th & 4468th Cos (Bainbridge, MO, Mar-June 1946), Ed Walton, (949) 770-0746
4520th Cbt Support Sqdn (Indian Springs AFB, NV, 1964-1967), Ken Schumacher, (952) 941-2146, ken@mgc-mn.com
7768th Army Sig Repair Depot (Verdun, France, 1954-1956), Rick Fonseca, (847) 549-9757, rikfonz@sbcglobal.net
A Btry 2/35th Arty (Nui Dot/Vung Tau, Vietnam, 1966-1967), Raymond Caldwell, (606) 758-8617
Ammo Depot (Captieux, France, 1958-1962), Garnett P. Webb, (706) 492-4517
ASTP (Los Angeles City College, 1943), Jim McBrearty, (650) 343-1221
B Btry 6th Bn 59th Arty (Babenhausen, Germany, 1965-1967), Fred Ervin, (662) 843-4607, fervin42@yahoo.com
B Co 42nd Armd Inf Bn (Mainz, Germany, 1951-1953), Luis Piris, (787) 844-7955, luis4539@prtc.net
Boot Camp Co 53 (San Diego, 1943), John B. Crane, (770) 983-3423
Charlie Co Shore Party Bn 1st Mar Div (Korea, 1952-1953), Charles Tremain, (775) 851-1872, grand1mft@yahoo.com
Gosper APA 170 (Pacific, WWII), Bob Earley, (845) 679-2338
Kanagawa Mil Gov CIQ (Yokohama, Japan, 1947-1950), Phil Ybarra, (480) 940-0261
MCB-10 Delta Co, Timber Bridge Crew (Vietnam, 1970), Jim Moody, (562) 861-7061, arm114@ca.rr.com
Miami CL 89 (WWII), Charles Griswold, (541) 744-7801, anitabart7@aol.com
RAF Air Base (Lindholm, England, 1954-1957), Dante J. Ciandella, (603) 269-0153, dgcjciand@worldpath.net
Showtime McGuire Performing Troupe (McGuire AFB, NJ, 1959-1961), Michael Babyak, (973) 361-5594, mikebabyak@pafinancial.com

Sig Serv Unit (I.G. Farben Bldg, Frankfurt, Germany, Feb 1966-June 1968), Don Muir, (724) 459-6133, dwm6@verizon.net

TST 1, 15th Maint Co, 19th Maint Bn (Downs Barracks, Fulda, Germany, 1982-1984), T.J. Casson Jr., (410) 482-9223

VMA (AW) 533 (Chu Lai, Vietnam, 1967-1968), Andy Heffner, (240) 538-2214, top_dawg6586@hotmail.com

Yard Repair No. 71 (Da Nang, Vietnam, May-Sept 1970 & Me Kong Delta, Sept 1970-Apr 1971), Michael R. Cassesse, (203) 605-3307

TAPS

John M. Carey, Dept. of Michigan. Dept. Cmdr. 1958-1959, Nat'l Education & Scholarships Cmte. Memb. 1960-1961, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1962-1964, Nat'l Exec Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1963-1965, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Nat'l Cmdr.'s Rep. 1964-1965, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1965-1967, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1965-1967, Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1968-1974, Nat'l Internal Affairs Cmsn. Chmn. 1974-1976, Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1975-1978 & 1983-1984, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1976-1977, Nat'l Advisory Cmte. to the Nat'l Cmdr. Memb. 1977-1978, Nat'l Cmdr. 1978-1979, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Ex-Officio Memb. 1978-1979, Nat'l Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Chmn. 1978-1979, Nat'l Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Vice Chmn. 1979-1980, Nat'l Advisory Cmte. to the Nat'l Cmdr. Chmn. 1979-1980, Nat'l Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Vice Chmn. 1979-1980, Nat'l Overseas Graves Decoration Trust Memb. 1980-1981 and Nat'l Advisory Cmte. to the Nat'l Cmdr. Vice Chmn. 1980-1981.

Thomas J. Chilton, Dept. of Arizona. Dept. Cmdr. 1955-1956, Nat'l Education & Scholarship Cmte. Advisory Memb. 1959-1961, Nat'l Inter-American Cmte. Memb. 1961-1965, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmte. Memb. 1965-1967, Nat'l Child Welfare Cmsn. Exec. Session Memb. 1966-1969 and Nat'l Employment Cmte. Memb. 1970-1978.

C. Franklin Johnston, Dept. of Illinois. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1955-1956, Nat'l Emblem Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1957-1962 & 1971-1978, Nat'l Emblem Cmte. Memb. 1962-1965, 1968-1991 & 1993-2004, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1967-1968, Nat'l Emblem Cmte. Chmn. 1981-1991, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1989-1991, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1991-1992, Nat'l Finance Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1991-1993, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1991-1993 and Nat'l Legis. Cncl. Memb. 1993-1994.

Frederick A. Krick, Dept. of Illinois. Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1963-1964, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Memb. 1983-1985 and Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 1986-2003.

Andrew E. Rasmussen, Dept. of Arizona. Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1995-2004 and Dept. Cmdr. 1996-1997.

Felix E. Restad, Dept. of Montana. Dept. Cmdr. 1969-1970.

Ray S. Schulz, Dept. of Kansas. Nat'l Housing Cmte. Memb. 1946-1949, Dept. Cmdr. 1950-1951, Nat'l Resolutions Assignment Cmte. Memb. 1951-1954, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1966-1976 and Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1967-1968.

Charles K. Sink, Dept. of North Carolina. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1991-1993.

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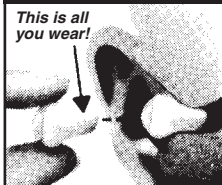


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"You don't understand. I make \$100,000 a week," the second man said.

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